

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Fruit and leaves. Photographers Forest & Kim Starr, Hawaii, USA



Young fruit and leaves. Photographers Forest & Kim Starr, Hawaii, USA



Tree. Cultivated plant. Photographer Roger Spencer, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board, Melbourne, Vic

Common name

Moreton Bay fig

Family

Moraceae

Where found

Forest and near streams. Occurs naturally north of Nowra. Widely cultivated. Possibly **naturalised** where birds, possums and fruit-bats may have distributed seed, resulting in small plants becoming established as epiphytes on trees.

Notes

Tree to 55 m high, with large buttresses. A strangler, first an **epiphyte** on the host tree, and then forming a massive trunk of joined roots around the host tree. Bark dark greyish brown. Young stems hairy, soon becoming hairless. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 7–30 cm long, 40–125 mm wide, upper surface green and hairless, lower surface rusty-coloured due to a covering of minute **scales** or hairs, often becoming hairless with age, tips pointed; margins **entire**. Male and female flowers on the same plant. Individual flowers very small, inside the figs. Figs paired or single, orange turning purple when ripe, spotted, round to oblong, 15–25 mm in diameter, stalks 10–28 mm long. Figs ripen throughout the year.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lv=sp&name=Ficus~macrophylla> (accessed 22 January, 2021)

Author: Betty Wood.

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