

Anjeer







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Anjeer Agronomy

INTRODUCTION:

Belonging to the mulberry family, and native to the Middle East and Western Asia, this plant is specially grown for its fruit 'Fig' or 'Anjeer.' The fruit is known for its numerous health benefits and has a juicy outer coating that carries crispy seeds inside. It is usually consumed in dried form, as it becomes more nutritious than the fresh ones. Apart from the fruit, it is grown as an ornamental plant.



<u>Anjeer</u> is known for its nutritious properties and consumed as a dried fruit. You can either eat it directly or use it in different recipes in multitudes of ways, like simmering them up for using it as a topping for desserts. It is the best fruit for weight loss management, as it reduces the sugar curbing. Rich in antioxidants, anjeer cures the iron deficiency in the body. It is also helpful in constipation and lowering blood pressure.



Soak fig seeds in lukewarm water for one day before sowing in the soil, as it will increase the chances of germination. Sow these seeds in small pot or tray consisting of a seed-starting mix. When the leaves start emerging from its shoots in 2-3 months, transplant them into a bigger pot, filled with potting mix. Tissue Culture raised saplings are also now available.

Soil:

The soil for growing Anjeer should be well-draining and, at the same time, should retain some water for better yield of fruit. You can use organic potting mix or loamy clay soil, rich in compost or well-rotted manure. Moreover, the pH of the soil should be within 6-8.

Temperature:

Anjeer is a sun-loving plant and performs best under plenty of sunlight. So, place them in a bright and sunny spot where they can have full sun exposure for around 6-7 hours. Prefer a south-facing location for keeping the pot.

Climate:

This tree requires a hot and dry climate to thrive and performs better in the areas with high-temperature summers. The ideal temperature should be around 15-25 C. The quality of fruit can be affected beyond 40 C, or low temperature can cause the splitting of fruits.



Water:

Anjeer needs regular watering as the scarcity may lead to water stress, causing yellowing of leaves. Since trees grown in a container dries out quicker, so keep its soil moist but not water clogged. The best way to check watering needs is by poking the finger one and a half inches deep in the topsoil to check. If it feels dry, water it thoroughly until it comes out of the drainage holes.

Fertilizer:

To supplement the growth of Anjeer tree and fruit yield, you can fertilize your potted tree with well-rotted compost or manure during early summer. Alternatively, you can also use 5-5-5 dilute, balanced fertilizer.



Pruning:

Anjeer tree in a pot needs very light pruning just to maintain its shape and to allow new growth. You can prune it after the fruit ripens during summers. For a young, potted anjeer tree, remove the sucker coming from the rootstock using a sharp knife. Once it gets mature enough, prune only dead and broken stems. During Dormancy

Although Roots will not ask for much water during this period, but keep watering it and don't let the topsoil of the pot dry out completely.

Pests and Diseases:

Potted Anjeer trees can be attacked by spider mites, whiteflies, or aphids. You can protect it by spraying a jet of water. Spread wood ash at the base to stop ants from climbing the tree. You can use Neem oil spray, but don't use it if the temperature is too hot, as it can damage the leaves.

Fig-leaf mosaic virus:





Symptoms:

Yellow spots and mottling on foliage; margins of spots are diffuse and blend gradually back into the green of the leaf; spots may be distributed uniformly across the leaf surface or as irregular patches; mature lesions develop a brown-red band around their margin. Cause

Virus:

Comments : Transmitted by fig mites or by grafting from infected tree.

Management:

Do not collect propagation material from any trees showing symptoms of disease; controlling fig mites may help to reduce incidence of disease.

Fig blister mites Aceria ficus



Symptoms:

Blisters on surface of leaves which cause leaves to be russetted; twigs may be stunted and leaves may drop from trees.

Cause:

Arachnid

Comments:

Blister mites transmit fig mosaic virus; mites undergo several generations per year.

Management:

Applications of horticultural oils or sulfur sprays are effective at controlling blister mites and should be applied if the mites were a problem the previous year; chemical treatments should be applied before bloom.

Harvesting

No fruits bear in the Anjeer tree, for two years after the planting. It can take three to four years to start yielding fruits. Anjeer tree produces two crops per year, but only one of them is edible. The harvest time is between June and September, but in tropical regions, it can bear fruit throughout the year as well.