

Ficus rubiginosa – Port Jackson Fig

Family:
Moraceae

Common Name:
Port Jackson Fig

Distribution:
Generally located along NSW coastal areas. In HSC found in closed forests and near estuarine areas. Communities O1 (107.9 ha) & Q1 (271.1 ha). Often on rocky outcrops or cliffs near the Hawkesbury River.

Derivation of Name:
Ficus, Latin, for “fig tree”. ***rubiginosa*** Latin, “*rubiginosus*” means rusty in reference to the underside of the leaves.

Conservation Status:
Adequately conserved.



Description:
Grows as a wide spreading tree often wider than it is tall. Often found growing out of large sandstone boulders or encasing boulders with its massive root system. Foliage is bright shiny green above with a velvet rusty underside, individual leaves are elliptical in shape, generally 7–10 cm long and up to 6cm wide. Tiny flowers occur on the inside of the “fig” (syconium) which are pollinated by specific wasps. The fruit is a characteristic yellow fig ripening to a reddish purple colour at the end of summer and are up to 10mm in diameter. Maybe semi-deciduous in winter.

Longevity:
More than 100 years.

Horticultural Merit and uses:
Suitable only for very large gardens or park plantings. Large trees may develop an invasive root system around built infrastructure.

Fauna Value:
Fruits are eaten by several bird species, including the Australasian Figbird, Lewin’s Honeyeater, Olive-backed Oriole, White-headed Pigeon, Topknot Pigeon, Brown Cuckoo-dove, Satin Bowerbird and Australian King Parrot. Fruit also fed upon by flying foxes.





