

The Deacon's Garden: Madeira White Fig Care Guide



Pickup: GardenWorx LI – Miller Place, NY

1. Immediate Steps After Pickup

- **Acclimation:** Your tree needs to adjust to its new environment. Give it "dappled" sun (partial shade) for 2–3 days to prevent leaf scorch before moving it to its permanent full-sun home.
- **Watering:** Check the soil daily. If the top inch is dry, water it immediately. Do not let the root ball dry out completely while it is still in the nursery pot.

2. Choosing the Perfect Spot

- **The "South Wall" Rule:** Figs love heat! In Long Island, the best spot is against a **south-facing wall** (house, garage, or fence). The wall reflects heat during the day and keeps the tree warmer at night.
- **Sun Requirements:** Ensure the spot receives a minimum of 8 hours of direct sunlight. This is necessary for the fruit to develop its signature honey-sweet flavor.

3. Planting Instructions

- **Planting Depth:** Dig a hole twice the width of the root ball. Plant the tree **2 to 4 inches deeper** than it sat in the nursery pot. This protects the "crown" from freezing and encourages a deeper root system.
- **Soil:** Use native soil mixed with a bit of organic compost. Ensure the area has good drainage so the roots don't sit in standing water.

4. Seasonal Care & Feeding

- **Watering:** Keep the soil consistently moist during the fruiting season (July–September). If the tree gets too dry, the figs may drop before they are ripe.
- **Fertilizing:** Use a balanced organic fertilizer (like 10-10-10) in early Spring.
- **CRITICAL:** Stop all fertilizing by **July 1st**. Late-season fertilizer causes the tree to grow "soft" wood that will die instantly during the first winter frost.

5. Winter Strategy (Zone 7b)

- **Protection:** Once the leaves drop in late Autumn (usually November), mulch the base heavily with 6 inches of wood chips or straw.
- **Wrapping/Storage:** Wrap the main trunk in burlap to protect it from freezing winds. If the tree is in a pot, move it into an unheated garage or shed once it goes dormant.
- **Temperature:** Madeira White figs are hardy to about **15°F**. Anything colder requires physical protection.

The Deacon's Pro-Tip:

"A fig is ready when it 'weeps' a drop of nectar from the bottom and hangs heavy on the branch. If it's still firm and sticking straight out, leave it! If it's soft like a marshmallow, it's perfect."

Thank you for choosing the Deacon's Garden!

Contact us at mullane55@aol.com or use the

“Contact us” Page on our website.