Fig Demonstration Plot
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Hays County
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Summary

In 2007, the Hays County Extension Office, along with the Hays County Master Gardener Chapter, received a shipment of fig varieties from California. The goal with this project was to plant them in Hays County and see how each variety did. Since then, the agriculture/natural resource agent in the Hays County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has changed twice. During the gaps between agents, some data was lost. Throughout this entire time period, however, two Hays County Master Gardeners have tended to the trees to give each one a chance at survival in the central Texas climate of Hays County. This report serves as an update on the progress of each variety to date.

Data for this demonstration was collected by personal observation of the author as well as the Master Gardeners assisting with this project.

Objective

The objectives of this demonstration are to:

- Test varieties of figs to determine how well they will grow in Hays County
- Bring awareness to figs as a fruit crop in Hays County for possible niche markets

Materials and Methods

When the figs were planted in 2007, they were randomly assigned spots in the garden. Irrigation lines were also ran to provide water for the figs. The water for irrigation came from a rainwater harvesting system that is attached to the Hays County Extension Office. The system is designed that in times of drought, water can be run from municipal sources if needed. Two Master Gardener volunteers have taken care of the trees since they were planted.

The lay-out of the demonstration plot can be seen in Figure 1.

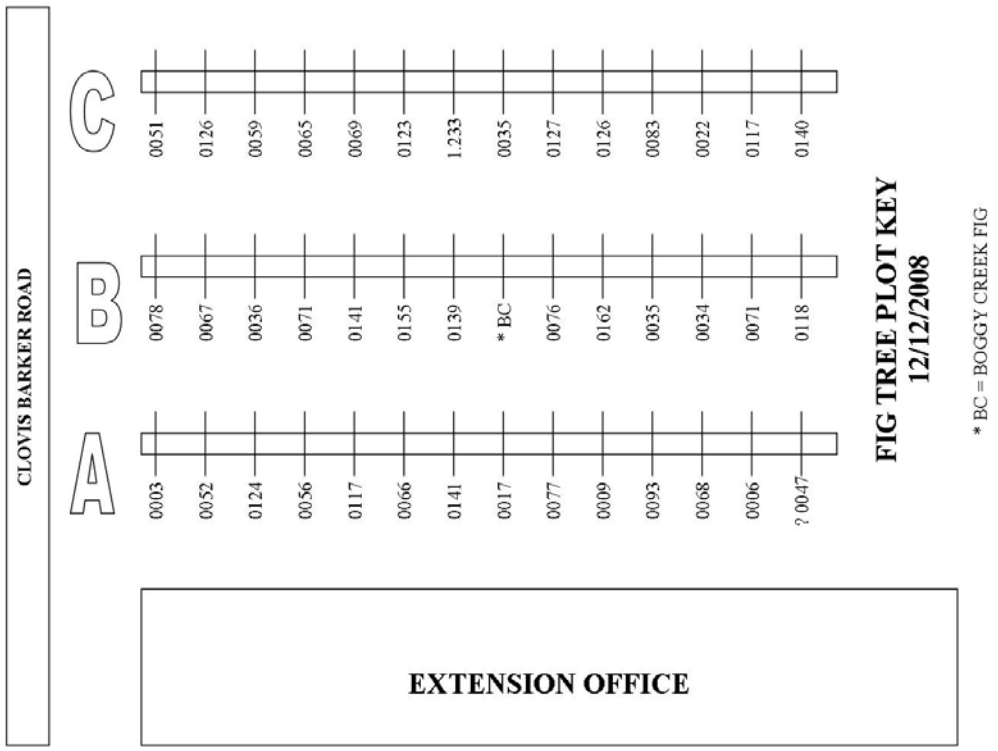

Figure 1

Fig Tree Variety Key

Row A		Row B		Row C	
0003	Marabout C. Smyrnay	0078	Karayaprak	0051	Marabout
0052	Ischia Green	0067	Montrueuse	0126	Capri Q
0124	Capri P	0036	Zidi	0059	UCR 135-4s
0056	Verdal Longue	0071	UCR 171-59	0065	UCR 143-28
0117	Capri N	0141	Capri B	0069	Barnissotte
0066	Kadota 1	0155	California Brown Turkey	0123	Capri O
0141	Capri B	0139	Santa Cruz Light or White	1.233	Verino
0017	Brown Turkey	*BC	Boggy Creek Fig	0035	Orphan
0077	Calvert	0076	UCR 135-15s	0127	Capri S
0009	Flanders	0162	White Texas Everbearing	0126	Capri Q
0093	Roeding 2	0035	Orphan	0083	UCR 153-17
0068	UCR 187-25	0034	Brunswick	0022	Mary Lane
0006	UCR 347-1	0071	UCR 171-59	0117	Capri N
?0047	Pastiliere	0118	Capri V	0140	Capri A

A layer of bark mulch lines the ground around the trees. The trees have been fertilized each spring with Osmocote 19-6-12 slow release fertilizer. The trees were watered as needed during the active growing season. No efforts were made to protect the trees from any adverse winter weather. No pesticides or other chemicals have been used during this demonstration.

Signs with information about each fig variety have been made and are placed next to each plant. This allows the public to learn more about each variety as they determine if it is one they wish to have on their property.

Results and Discussion

Since the trees were planted, there has been much change among staff at the Hays County Extension Office. As a result, several years worth of data regarding these trees was lost. However, because of the work of the two Hays County Master Gardener volunteers, these trees survive and this demonstration can continue.

Table 1 contains data regarding the fig varieties for the 2012 year. It is indicated whether or not the variety is still alive or is dead. The size of the tree is indicated as well as if the tree produced fruit. If the tree did produce fruit, the size of the fruit is indicated as well as an indicator as to how much fruit was produced. Production is noted as slight, moderate, or heavy. Slight production indicates that 20 percent or less of the tree contained fruit. Moderate production signifies production from 21 to 70 percent. Over 70 percent of the tree being covered with fruit was noted as heavy production. Also noted is when the fruit on the tree ripened.

Table 1

Row-Space	Variety	Code	Dead	Tree Height (in feet)	Tree Width (in feet)	Fruit Present	Fruit Size (in inches)	Production	When Ripen
A-1	Marabout C. Smyrnay	0003	Yes						
A-2	Ischia Green	0052	Yes						
A-3	Capri P	0124	Yes						
A-4	Verdal Longue	0056	Yes						
A-5	Capri N	0117	No	6.5	2	No			
A-6	Kadota 1	0066	Yes						
A-7	Capri B	0141	Yes						
A-8	Brown Turkey	0017	No	3.5	5	Yes	1.5	Heavy	July-Aug
A-9	Calvert	0077	Yes						
A-10	Flanders	0009	No	6	5	Yes	1	Moderate	Aug-Sept
A-11	Roeding 2	0093	No	9	7				

Row-Space	Variety	Code	Dead	Tree Height (in feet)	Tree Width (in feet)	Fruit Present	Fruit Size (in inches)	Production	When Ripen
A-12	UCR 187-25	0068	Yes						
A-13	UCR 347-1	0006	Yes						
A-14	Pastiliere	?0047	No	6	7	Yes	1	Slight	Aug-Oct
B-1	Karayaprak	0078	No	6	2.5	Yes	0.75	Moderate	July-Aug
B-2	Montrueuse	0067	No	7	6	Yes	1.75	Heavy	July-Sept
B-3	Zidi	0036	No	3.5	4	Yes	1	Slight	July-Sept
B-4	UCR 171-59	0071	No	5.5	6	Yes	1	Moderate	Aug-Sept
B-5	Capri B	0071	No	6	4	No			
B-6	California Brown Turkey	0155	No	4	6	Yes	2	Heavy	July-Sept
B-7	Santa Cruz Light or White	0139	Yes						
B-8	Boggy Creek	BC	No	6	8	Yes	1.5	Heavy	July-Oct
B-9	UCR 135-15s	0076	Yes						
B-10	White Texas Everbearing	0162	No	12	12	Yes	1.5	Heavy	July-Oct
B-11	Orphan	0035	No	4	4	No			
B-12	Brunswick	0034	No	6	7	Yes	1.75	Moderate	Aug-Oct
B-13	UCR 171-59	0071	No	5	6	Yes	1	Slight	Aug-Sept
B-14	Capri V	0118	Yes						
C-1	Marabout	0051	No	5	8	Yes	1	Slight	July-Aug
C-2	Capri Q	0126	Yes						
C-3	UCR 135-4s	0059	No	7	5	Yes	1	Heavy	Sept
C-4	UCR 143-28	0065	No	5.5	4	Yes	1.25	Slight	Sept-Oct
C-5	Barnissotte	0069	No	3	3.5	Yes	1.5	Heavy	Aug-Oct
C-6	Capri O	0123	No	7	7	Yes	0.75	Slight	
C-7	Verino	1.233	No	1.5	1	No			
C-8	Orphan	0035	No	8	8	Yes	2	Heavy	July-Aug
C-9	Capri S	0127	No	6	6	Yes	0.5	Slight	Sept-Oct

Row-Space	Variety	Code	Dead	Tree Height (in feet)	Tree Width (in feet)	Fruit Present	Fruit Size (in inches)	Production	When Ripen
C-10	Capri Q	0126	No	7.5	8	Yes	1.25	Slight	Sept-Nov
C-11	UCR 153-17	0083	No	2	2	No			
C-12	Mary Lane	0022	No	9	7	Yes	1.25	Heavy	Oct-Nov
C-13	Capri N	0117	No	9	7	No			
C-14	Capri A	0140	Yes						

Conclusions

This fig demonstration has been an on-going project. While the fig trees will still be tended to, this will be the last year for this result demonstration. Ultimately, the objectives of this project were met. Because this demonstration garden is open to the public, citizens can walk through the garden and see for themselves which varieties work will in this soil type and environment. Many people have stopped by the office inquiring about the figs. We welcome people to sample the figs and some people have even taken cuttings of desirable varieties.

It was noticed that the Capri varieties of figs either produced no fruit or else the fruit never matured and ripened. Upon further research on the Capri varieties, it was found that Capri is used as a pollinator. The fruit from these varieties, if fruit is produced, is not intended to be eaten. When fruit was present on these varieties, it did not mature. The fruit had a very hard texture to it.

Acknowledgements

This project would not have been possible without the hard work of Hays County Master Gardener volunteers Joe Elizarde and Irene Hoadley. Appreciation is also extended to Jim Kamas, Extension Horticulturalist. He has helped to advise regarding fertilization and care of these fig trees.