

Discover the Flora of Our Campus

Rubber fig (*Ficus elastica*)

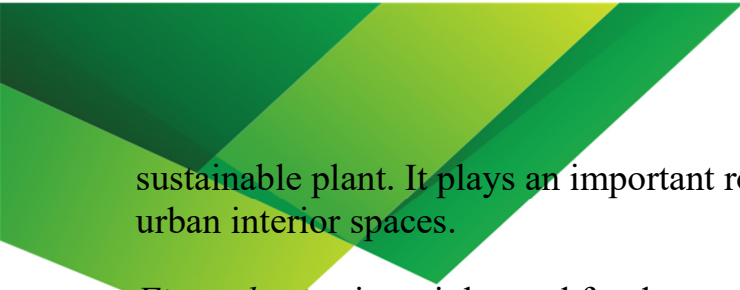
Rubber fig (*Ficus elastica*), commonly known as the “rubber plant,” is a large-leaved, evergreen ornamental plant. Its leaves are big, thick, glossy, and dark green. In some varieties, the leaves have lighter patterns and cream or yellowish edges. The leaf surface looks polished and shiny, making the plant highly decorative. In nature, it can grow into a large tree, but in indoor conditions it is kept at a smaller size. Due to its strong and resilient structure, it is widely used in interior design.

The native range of *Ficus elastica* is South and Southeast Asia, especially India, Nepal, Bhutan, Indonesia, and Malaysia. In nature, it grows as a giant tree in tropical forests. Today, it is widely cultivated around the world as an ornamental houseplant. It is very popular as an interior plant in Europe and America. In Azerbaijan, it is mainly grown as a home and office plant.



Ficus elastica prefers bright environments with indirect sunlight rather than strong direct sun. It grows best in medium to bright indirect light. The soil should be kept slightly moist, but excess water can cause root rot. It grows well in fertile, well-aerated soil. It prefers warm conditions and is sensitive to cold. Cleaning dust from its leaves helps improve photosynthesis.

Ficus elastica is one of the decorative plants that can help improve indoor air quality. Thanks to its large leaves, it can trap dust particles and contribute to cleaner indoor air. As a green plant, it has a positive effect on people’s psychological well-being. From an ecological perspective, it is a long-lived and



sustainable plant. It plays an important role in increasing greenery and enhancing urban interior spaces.

Ficus elastica is mainly used for decorative purposes. It is widely used in homes, offices, hotels, and public interior spaces. Because of its large leaves, it is often used as a “statement plant,” meaning a focal point in interior design. In some countries, it is also grown in outdoor landscape design. Its low maintenance requirements make it one of the most popular houseplants.

The rubber plant gets its name from the milky sap found in its leaves and stems, which was once used in rubber production. In natural conditions, it can grow into very large trees and live for hundreds of years. As the leaves mature, they become even shinier and thicker. In some cultures, it is considered a symbol of luck and stability. It is known as one of the most popular large-leaved houseplants in the world.

