

STRANGLER FIG

Ficus aurea

- The Strangler Fig is native to South Florida, the subtropics, and the tropics.
- It is a member of the Mulberry family.
- The fast-growing Strangler Fig can get over 60 feet tall. It starts as an epiphyte and then becomes terrestrial once its roots contact the ground. The aerial roots wrap around its host, ultimately reaching the ground and may even engulf the host tree.
- It thrives in full sun, has a high drought tolerance, and will endure brackish water or occasional inundation by saltwater.
- Broken twigs exude a milky, sap that may cause a skin reaction in some people.
- Strangler Figs flower almost continuously, producing small, spherical "fruits" which are eaten by birds.
- Occasionally, seeds are dropped directly on the ground and grow as an individual tree.
- The tree provides habitat, food, and shelter for a host of wildlife.

