Introduction
A 40 to 50-foot-tall, evergreen tree of upright-spreading, irregular growth, Fiddleleaf Fig produces 8 to 15-inch-long and 10-inch-wide, dull green, thick, fiddle-shaped leaves which are quite attractive. The trunk can grow to several feet thick. Most trees in the landscape are 15 to 25 feet tall. Larger ones sometimes break apart in strong winds due to tight branch crotches and embedded bark. Corrective pruning early in the life of the tree can help prevent this from occurring. Plant them in a place protected from the wind, such as a courtyard to increase longevity in the landscape.

General Information
Scientific name: Ficus lyrata
Pronunciation: FYE-kuss lye-RAY-tuh
Common name(s): Fiddleleaf Fig
Family: Moraceae
USDA hardiness zones: 10B through 11 (Fig. 2)
Origin: not native to North America
Invasive potential: has been evaluated using the IFAS Assessment of the Status of Non-Native Plants in Florida’s Natural Areas (Fox et al. 2005). This species is not documented in any undisturbed natural areas in Florida. Thus, it is not considered a problem species and may be used in Florida.
Uses: indoors; deck or patio; specimen; container or planter; espalier; highway median; street without sidewalk; shade
Availability: not native to North America

Figure 1. Young Ficus lyrata: Fiddleleaf Fig
Credits: Ed Gilman

Figure 2. Range
Ficus lyrata: Fiddleleaf Fig

Description
Height: 25 to 40 feet  
Spread: 25 to 35 feet  
Crown uniformity: irregular  
Crown shape: vase, round, spreading  
Crown density: moderate  
Growth rate: moderate  
Texture: coarse

Foliage
Leaf arrangement: alternate (Fig. 3)  
Leaf type: simple  
Leaf margin: undulate, entire  
Leaf shape: obovate  
Leaf venation: pinnate, brachidodrome  
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen, broadleaf evergreen  
Leaf blade length: 4 to 8 inches, 8 to 12 inches  
Leaf color: green  
Fall color: no color change  
Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower
Flower color: unknown  
Flower characteristics: not showy

Fruit
Fruit shape: round  
Fruit length: less than .5 inch  
Fruit covering: fleshy  
Fruit color: green  
Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; not showy; fruit/leaves a litter problem

Trunk and Branches
Trunk/bark/branches: branches droop; not showy; typically one trunk; thorns  
Pruning requirement: needed for strong structure  
Breakage: resistant

Current year twig color: brown  
Current year twig thickness: thick  
Wood specific gravity: unknown

Culture
Light requirement: full sun, partial sun or partial shade  
Soil tolerances: clay; sand; loam; alkaline; acidic; occasionally wet; well-drained  
Drought tolerance: high  
Aerosol salt tolerance: moderate

Other
Roots: not a problem  
Winter interest: no  
Outstanding tree: no  
Ozone sensitivity: unknown  
Verticillium wilt susceptibility: unknown  
Pest resistance: resistant to pests/diseases

Use and Management
Fiddleleaf Fig can be used in containers when young or can be planted to make a striking specimen tree. They create quite an accent by a patio or in shrub bed because of the coarse leaf texture. Due to their large size, the leaves can be a nuisance to some people when they fall but there are never too many of them.

Fiddleleaf Fig will grow moderately fast in full sun or partial shade on any well-drained soil and should receive regular watering. Be sure to cut roots circling the container before planting since these can cause the tree to become unstable as it grows older. There are some aerial roots produced from the branches but not as many as on some other Ficus, such as Ficus benjamina.

Propagation is by layering and cuttings.

Pests and Diseases
No pests or diseases are of major concern but occasionally scales are a problem.

Literature Cited