

June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

## DEVMURTI AND HARI AMRIT KHALSA

### GROWING HARDY FIGS AND LISTENING TO PLANTS CREATE WONDERFUL MUSIC (emerald music)

Devmurti and Hari Amrit operate Nature Spirit Permaculture Farm on an historic piece of farmland on Denman Island. They grow a vast array of edibles and medicinal plants, as well as many fruit trees. They are passionate about growing fruit trees, particularly fig trees.

Figs were farmed for over 11,000 years in Jordan and Middle East. They need free draining soil and warmth and at least 6 hrs. of afternoon sunshine. Choose the hottest, bone dry spot in your garden. Reduce wind by protective barrier. Good location is on a slope, NO RICH SOIL. Use composted animal manure, bone meal, rock phosphate. Apply dolomite lime.

Figs are self-fertile in North America. They are fast growing and precocious. Wrap burlap around your tree first few winters. Watch for critters – voles, rats.

Use aluminum windows screen to protect the trunk. To prevent starlings pecking on fruit, tie organza bags on the fruit. Figs have laxative properties.

- DESERT KING is hardy, super productive and most popular in BC. Has huge fruit.
- ROUNDE DE BORDEAUX is a rare, dark purple fruiting fig.
- ITALIAN HONEY is extra sweet, slower growing, grows well in containers, good for small gardens.
- OLYMPIAN is one of the best, purple fig.
- BROWN TURKEY is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most popular variety. Is hardy, dependable, has 2nd. Crop on good summer.
- JORDAN is a black fig, little known, rich, sweet.
- NAZARENE is little known, hardy, delicious.

- VERTE tastes like strawberry jam.
- OSBORNE is prolific, unusual in the main crop cut down to '-7' after 15 years.
- OSBORNE PACIFIC grows well in pots.
- EVER BEARING MULBERRY Moris Nigra, rich flavour.
- ITALIAN STONE PINE is a nut tree.
- HIMROD seedless grape
- JAPANESE RAISIN TREE Hovemia dulcies, green flowering, sweet clusters.
- YELLOWHORNE NUT is native to China.
- BEE BEE TREE bees produce high quality nectar.
- RUSSIAN COMFREY Bocking 14 is a sterile strain, is a great fertilizer for anything that fruits.
- BELGICA EARLY DUTCH honeysuckle, fragrant.
- SEROTINA blooms late.
- HALL'S JAPANESE HONEYSUCLE is extremely fragrant.