



Common Name: Balete, Weeping Fig, Benjamin Fig

Scientific Name: *Ficus benjamina* L.

Family: *Moraceae*

Distribution: Andaman Islands, Australia, Bangladesh, Bismarck Arch, Borneo, Cambodia, China, India, Java, Laos, Lesser Sunda Islands, Malay Peninsula, Moluccas, Myanmar, Nepal, New Guinea, Nicobar Islands, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sulawesi, Sumatra, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam. ALABAT, BATAN, BATANES, BILIRAN, BOHOL, CATANDUANES, CEBU, LAGEN, LEYTE, LUZON: Aurora, Bataan, Batangas, Benguet, Bulacan, Cagayan, Camarines Sur, Cavite, Ifugao, Ilocos Norte, Isabela, Laguna, NCR, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Pampanga, Pangasinan, Quezon, Rizal, Sorsogon, MARINDUQUE, MINDANAO: Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Davao Oriental, Davao del Sur, South Cotabato, Surigao del Norte, MINDORO, NEGROS, PALAUI, PALAWAN, PANAY, POLILLO, ROMBLON, SAMAR

DAO/IUCN category: Least Concern



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Description:

Most ficus species in the Philippines are called 'balete' and often perceived as enchanted or bewitched trees. The Benjamin Fig or balete is a broadleaf evergreen tree that may reach a height of 15m tall or more. As a low maintenance plant that can tolerate partial shade, baletes are very popular houseplants. This bird-attracting tree with small globular red or reddish orange fruits is also used for container planting, bonsai, roadsides and as a shade providing tree.

Source: <https://www.nparks.gov.sg/florafauweb/flora/2/9/2902>
MADULID, D.A. 2021. A Pictorial Cyclopeda of Philippine Ornamental Plants. 3rd Ed. Makati: The Bookmark, Inc. 461 p.

Image source: <https://www.nparks.gov.sg/-/media/ffw/migrated/round2/flora/2902/bc4f0c5ec1fb4a898d29609743289168.jpg>