



***Ficus elastica* Roxb. ex Hornem**

Family: Moraceae

Common name: Rubber plant



Description:

Ficus elastica is a beautiful tree native to north east India, the eastern Himalayas and south east Asia growing to 30–40 m tall with a stout trunk of up to 2 m in diameter. Trunk has aerial and buttressing roots to anchor it in the soil and help to support heavy branches. It has broad shiny 10–35 cm long and 5–15 cm broad oval leaves. The leaf size is largest on young plants and much smaller on old trees. When it matures, it unfurls and the sheath drops off the plant.

Utilization:

Rubber plant is grown around the world as an ornamental plant. It yields a milky white latex, its sap contains a chemical compound which carried and stored in different cells. This latex was formerly used to make rubber (Zhengyi *et al.*, 2013). The latex of the plant is an irritant to the eyes and skin and is toxic if taken internally.

Part	Uses
Latex	Rubber formation

References: Zhengyi Wu, Zhe-Kun Zhou and Michael G. Gilbert; (2013) "*Ficus elastica*". Flora of China. Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO & Harvard University Herbaria, Cambridge, MA.