

# CAYMAN ISLANDS WILD TREES

## Wild Fig Trees

Family: MORACEAE



*Ficus citrifolia*

is much rarer than *Ficus aurea*. The smooth-edged leaves have long stalks and the fruits are stalked.

It can resemble Manchineel.



Cayman has two very large Wild Fig trees: *Ficus aurea* and *Ficus citrifolia*.

Note:

The popular Ficus hedge plant *Ficus benjamina* can also grow into a large spreading, tree.

It has an aggressive root system and requires a large area or frequent pruning.

The edible Fig is *Ficus carica*.



Stalkless fruits of *Ficus aurea*, favourites of bats and birds

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The seeds of *Ficus aurea* are dispersed by bats and birds. They may become lodged in the branches of another tree. Aerial roots grow down, sometimes enveloping the original host.

Grand Cayman's Lower Valley Forest is one of the last remnants of the disappearing ancient Caribbean Ficus forests.



Below: **Manchineel** *Hippomane mancinella*

Family: EUPHORBIACEAE



Left: Manchineel leaves have a finely-toothed edge

**Manchineel BEWARE!**