



## Expanding Tree Diversity in Hawai'i's Landscapes: Willow-Leaved Fig, *Ficus celebensis*

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**W**ith a rounded crown and drooping branches, this *Ficus* resembles the weeping willow. A nice specimen grows in the very dry Koko Crater Botanical Garden, suggesting a certain amount of drought tolerance. While *F. celebensis* produces small figs, it does not set seed in Hawai'i, as the pollinator is not present in the Islands. Grows to about 30 ft tall with a spread of 20 ft.

### Recommended Use in Landscapes

- Small shade tree for residences
- Street tree
- Accent tree or focal point
- Container tree for outdoors
- Weeping willow-type drooping habit

### Distribution

- Native to Sulawesi

### Propagation Techniques

- Cuttings – moderately difficult to root, requiring 2500 to 4000 ppm auxin
- Air layering

### Cultural Requirements and Tolerances

- Requires regular watering but well-drained soil
- Mildly drought tolerant
- Not tolerant of strong winds, salt spray, saline soils
- Full sun to semi-shade
- Not recommended for interiorscapes unless light levels are high

### Flower and Fruit Characteristics

- Small figs about ¼" diameter borne singly or in pairs.
- Fruits are yellow-green at maturity.
- Does not produce viable seeds.

### Leaf Characteristics

- Glossy and dark green, linear-lanceolate, to 4 inches long by up to ½ inch wide, tapering to an acuminate tip
- Alternate leaves



Eight-year-old *F. celebensis* at UH Orvis Auditorium

**Advantages for Use in Landscapes**

- Attractive weeping form
- Tolerates pruning
- Aerial roots not observed in dry sites
- WRA = -3

**Disadvantages for Use in Landscapes**

- Like other banyans, its root system spreads to seek water, but little raised-surface rooting has been noted.
- Not tolerant of salt spray; avoid first-exposure seacoast
- Sticky white sap may irritate skin or eyes.
- Susceptible to spider mites, scale, and mealybugs
- Susceptibility to lobate lac scale has not yet been determined.

