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## **Food forest in the tropics**

Tue, 10/04/2011 - 16:42 -- Africanaussie

One of my favorite fruits is figs - I can remember having a huge fig tree outside my bedroom window growing up in South Africa. Now - that dry temperate climate is very, very different to where I live now, about as far away as possible in fact. When I saw fig trees for sale I knew I just had to have one - that little child in me kept saying - how delicious those figs were - don't you remember? I bought the tiny thing and put it into a little blue pot that I also just had to have.... Isn't it just as cute as a button?

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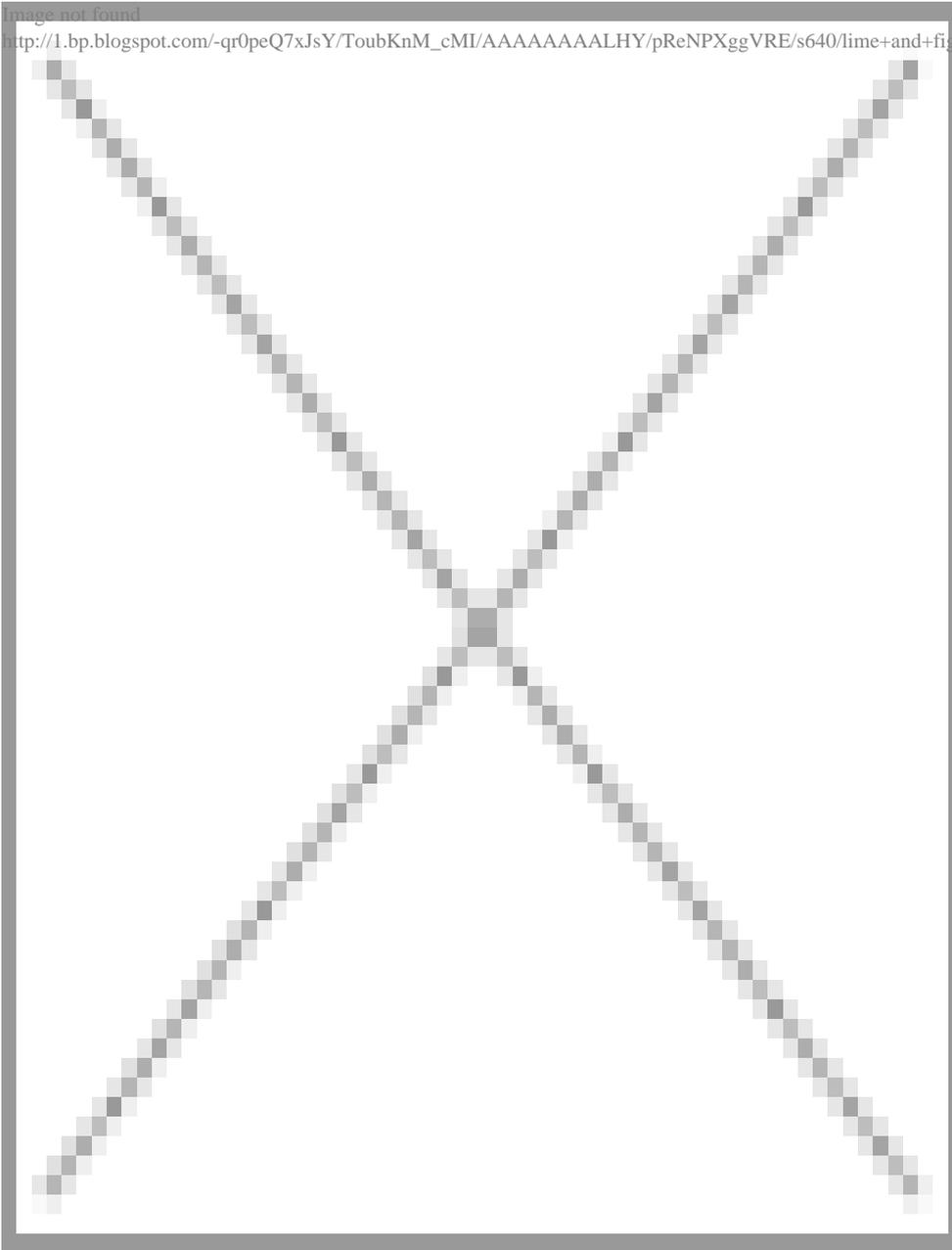
[http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-fW7NXlWg\\_GM/TouaqdlcA6I/AAAAAAAAALHQ/PqwlPyoBqtW/s640/little+fig+tree+in+new+pot.jpg](http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-fW7NXlWg_GM/TouaqdlcA6I/AAAAAAAAALHQ/PqwlPyoBqtW/s640/little+fig+tree+in+new+pot.jpg)



[1]

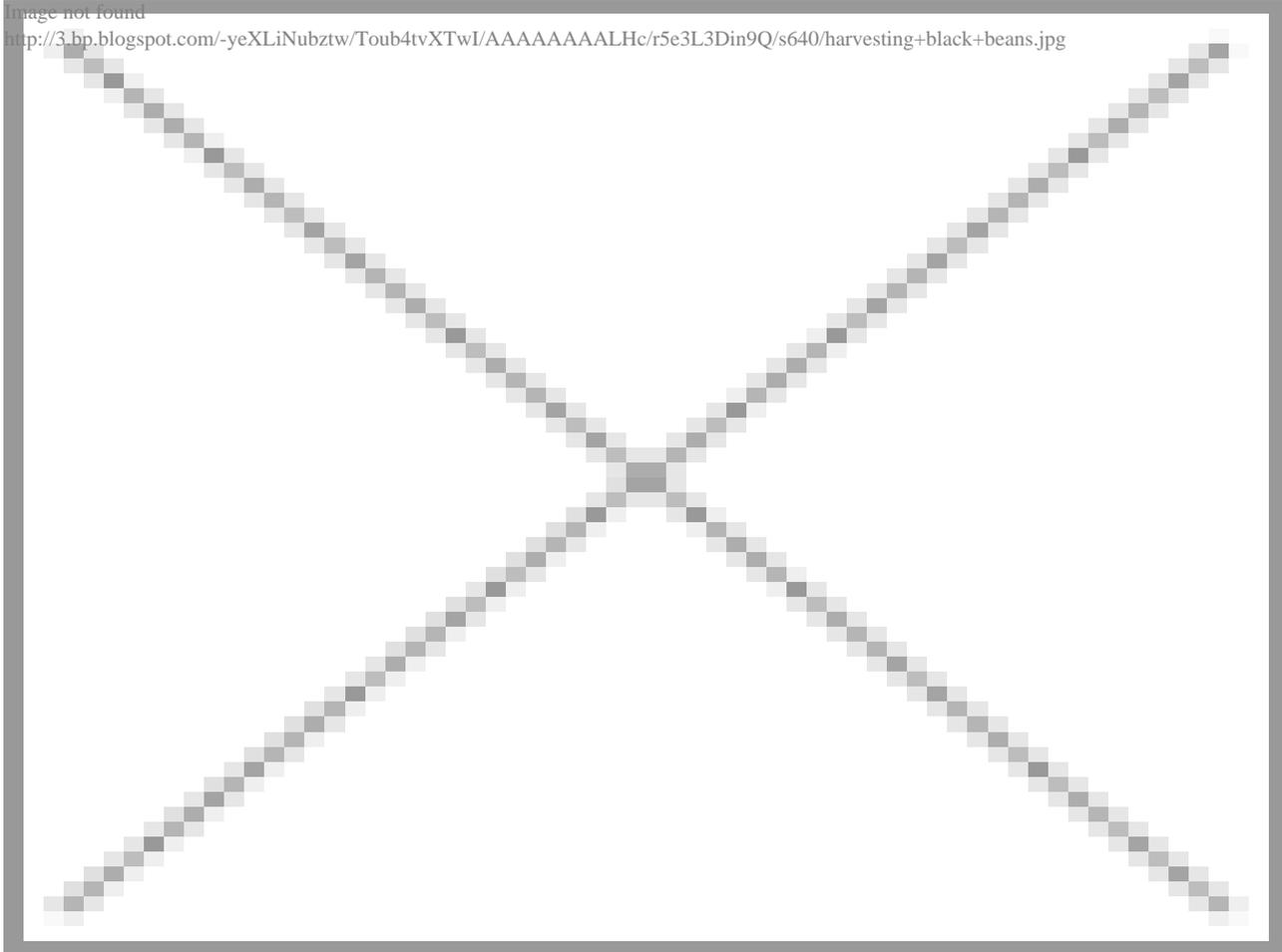
A real little fig tree. I hope it survives the heat and humidity and grows up to be a nice big fruit bearing fig tree. In a pot of course - I think I would probably have to find someplace for it to live during our wet season where it is not quite so wet. It is little - just look at it next to my little lime tree. :) But I now have a fig tree. A veritable food forest...of course it would be nice to harvest some fruit, but I am practicing patience.

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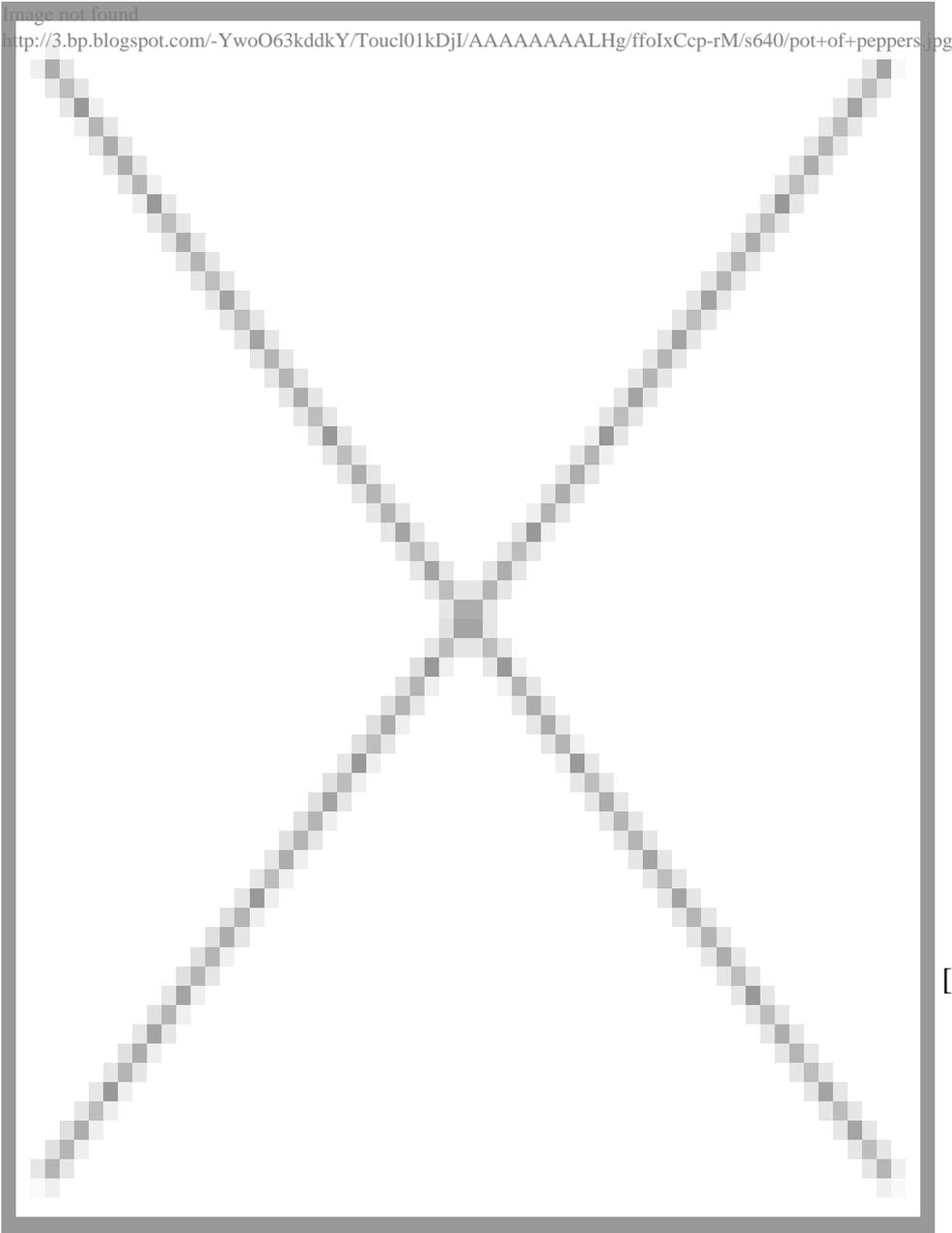


[2]

I did harvest the black beans, shared some with the neighbours, but kept some to plant again. Not now, the wet season is about to begin and the beans would just never dry out I don't think. I find it very difficult to get information of what to grow in what season. Then again the seasons differ from year to year, so sometimes I will just give something a try. Like these black beans which in fact have been quite successful. A couple of months from planting to harvesting :)



This must be the season for capsicums - they are starting to produce lovely little peppers - small but tasty. I planted these a long time ago, but they have only now started to flourish. Along with the eggplant. I must make a note of when they need to be planted in future.



[4]

I have planted wet season produce, but not sure when the rains will start. This has been a strange year - quite cool and dry - I even put in some more lettuce seeds, but if it gets hot too quickly now they will just bolt. I have never had much luck with beetroot, but sowed some seeds as well - maybe they will do better in the rainy season. I have sweet potato, loofah, yakon, jicama, ginger and chinese long beans planted - those are my wet season staples. I am already harvesting chinese long beans, capsicums, eggplant and asparagus. The red cherry tomatoes have been fabulous this year and still going strong. Pawpaws are falling off the tree green - not sure what is going on there.

Does anyone else know exactly what and when to plant in their garden?

Do you often buy something just because you like the taste? Even though you are pretty sure they will not do well in your climate? I do like to grow things I will eat :) Are you likely to be more succesful learning to love what you can grow easily in your climate?

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