

# Trimming a Ficus Lyrata

## Plan For the Finished Product

You can trim your Lyrata to almost any height, but there are a few things to decide before cutting. The first is to consider at what height the plant will be viewed. It takes about 8 inches of new growth before the new foliage looks best. Plan on trimming the Lyrata so that after 8" of growth the best foliage is not past eye level. A common mistake is to trim too little from the plant which results in the new foliage and branches being higher than eye level. Trim about 8 – 10" below where you want the major viewpoint to be. Most people are between 5 and 6 feet and this size plant would look best if it had nice foliage at about 5.5 ft. You would want to make your cuts at about 4' 10".

The first picture shows a Lyrata at about 6' tall. Notice that with the camera at about eye level you are looking at the top of the leaves on the bottom half of the tree and you are looking at the bottom of the leaves on the top of the tree. If you trim this tree too high, all of the new branches and new leaves will be above your eye.



The second picture is of the finished, trimmed plant. Notice that where I trimmed this plant is just above the point where you are looking at the tops of the leaves.



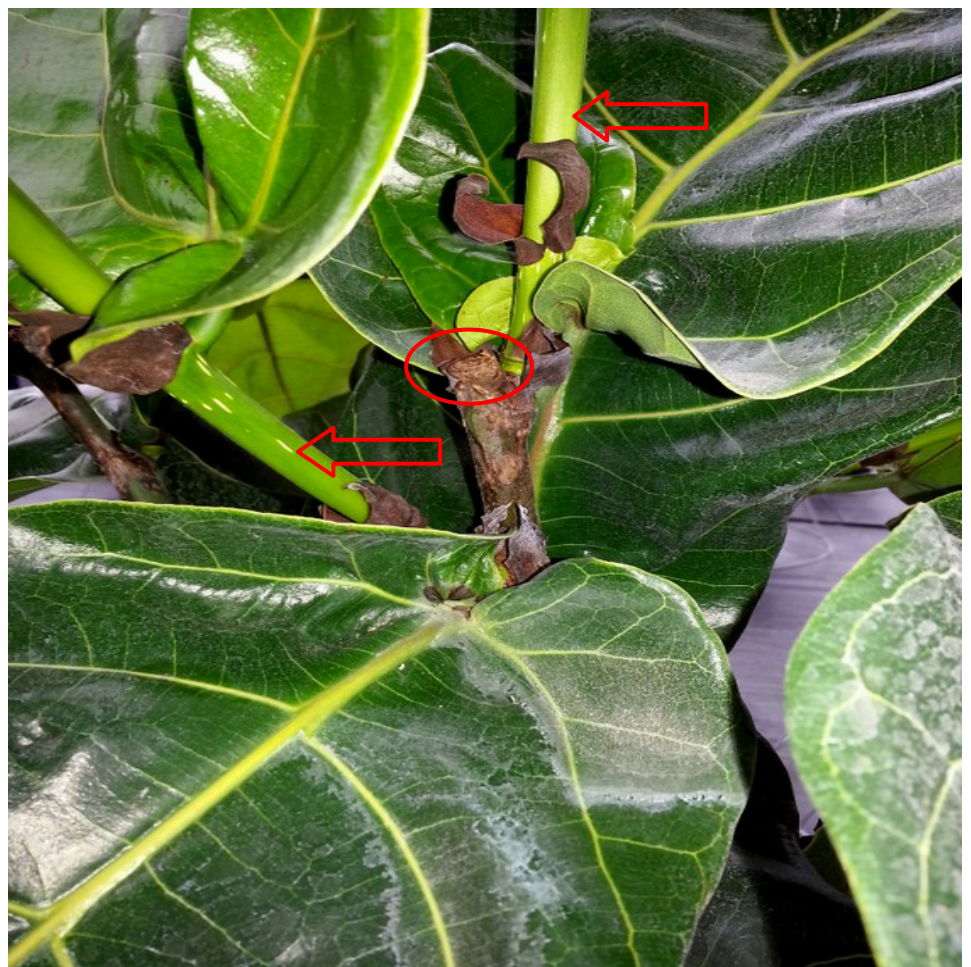


## Make The Cuts

Make your cut about a half inch above the point where a leaf is growing out of the branch. Use a good pair of pruners so that the cut is nice and clean.



The new growth will emerge from the stem immediately above where the leaf is. This picture shows where the new growth will come from. The cut point is circled in red and you can see the two new bright green stems that are growing as a result of this cut. It is typical to get two new stems to grow from the leaf nodes below the cut point.



## Final Considerations

1. If the plant is in a low light condition after trimming, it may only grow one new branch instead of two. Put the plant in a brighter environment until the new growth appears. Also the growing time will be reduced with more light.
2. Full sun will burn the plant. Large Lyrata leaves shade the leaves below, which will be exposed after trimming. These leaves will burn if the plant is in full sun.
3. Consider adding some fertilizer, either as a top dress or with the water to aid in new growth development.
4. If you have a lot of plant to work with, you can trim all branches to the same height to create a uniform "ball", or cut the branches at staggered heights to make a more wild look.
5. Make sure your next Lyrata is from Farm Life Tropical Foliage for the best start and a long lasting plant. Enjoy.