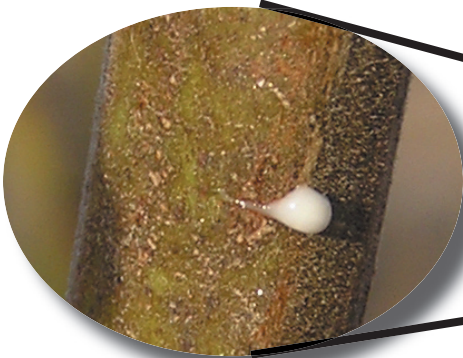


CHECKING FIGS FOR VIABILITY and PRUNING DAMAGE FROM TIPS



Figs are a deciduous, semi-tropical fruit tree. They never go fully dormant in the sense that the sap continues to flow and not drop to the roots as most dormant trees do. Figs very easily get frost damage to the tender parts (tips) and in colder areas to the whole tree.

It is easy to determine if there is damage to a fig tree. With a sharp knife, “tap” the tree making a tiny cut through the tender bark into the cambium and phloem layers. Almost immediately, if the tissues are healthy, the milky colored sap will ooze or drip out. This is often called “is the sap milking?”



“The Milk is Flowing”



If you encounter damaged tips that are dying, it is best to cut them off - back to healthy tissue.

Cut the branch just above a node where the sap is still flowing.

For some reason, leaving damaged tips often seems to cause the rest of the branch or tree to die if not pruned off.