

# Citrus

## Planting & Growing Guide

Questions? Contact us at (888) 784-1722 or [helpdesk@groworganic.com](mailto:helpdesk@groworganic.com)

### INTRODUCTION

Evergreen plants with bright green foliage and fragrant flowers. Valuable as ornamentals or orchard trees. Excellent source of Vitamin C. Citrus are not difficult to grow but do have certain requirements that need to be met.

Citrus are affected by cold and accumulated heat. Taking advantage of microclimates around your house may aid you in growing these cold-sensitive fruits. The following lists citrus in order of most tender to most hardy: lime, lemon, grapefruit, 'Bears' lime, sweet orange, most mandarins, Meyer Lemon, Satsuma mandarin, kumquat. The most tender foliage can be damaged at temperatures of 32°F, while the most hardy citrus can stand temperatures down to 18°F, but most fruit will be damaged at 26–28°F. If damaged by a frost, most citrus will still produce fruit the following year.

Citrus also need a certain level of accumulated heat in order to ripen. Since lemons are eaten for their acidic taste, they don't need the accumulated heat in order to sweeten up and are therefore suited for cool, coastal climates. Grapefruit and oranges need a high-accumulated heat and only reach peak quality in hot inland and desert areas. Most citrus are self-fruitful.

### ACCLIMATING YOUR NEW TREE

Your new citrus must be slowly acclimated to its new home. After unpacking your tree, place it in a location that gets indirect light or no more than 2 hours of direct sunlight (morning sun is best). In a week you can move your tree to the permanent location. Citrus will drop some of their leaves when stressed. Do not worry this is common and it will recover. If during the acclimation period the temperatures are going to be below 40°F, bring your tree inside.

### PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Fruit trees are a lifetime investment and caring for them properly, right from the start, will insure years of enjoyment and productivity. The greater the investment in early care, the less maintenance that will be required as the tree matures.

It is best to plant your tree early in the morning. Dig a hole twice the width of the root ball. Place the tree in the hole so the root crown, where the roots meet the trunk, is high. Add the fill soil (mixed with high quality soil conditioner or organic matter) back in and water thoroughly. Citrus must have well-drained soil, as they are sensitive to waterlogged soils. If you have poor drainage, you can plant in a raised bed. However, they need adequate moisture. If planting in containers, use a pot that is at least 1½ ft in diameter.

## Organic Gardening Resource Center

Check Out Our How-to Videos & Articles



### Videos

[Growing Citrus Trees Indoors](#)  
[How to Preserve Citrus](#)

### Articles

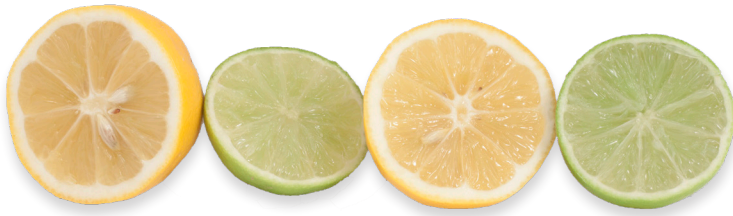
[How to Grow Meyer Lemons & Other Citrus Trees in Containers](#)  
[Preserving Citrus with Salt and Sugar](#)  
[How To Grow Citrus Trees](#)

200+ HOW-TO VIDEOS • 300+ ARTICLES • PLANTING CALCULATOR  
TIP OF THE WEEK • GROWING GUIDES • RECIPES & MORE!

[groworganic.com/pages/resource-center](http://groworganic.com/pages/resource-center)

A soil analysis is also recommended to determine any soil deficiencies, but this can be delayed until the tree has begun to establish itself. A gradual application of proper soil amendments will suffice if proper sunlight and drainage are available from the start.





## WATERING

Citrus like soil that is moist but never soggy. If growing in the ground water deeply and less frequently. Apply a thick layer of mulch (2-3") to help conserve water and make sure to keep mulch away from the base of the tree to prevent rot. For potted citrus, it is fine to allow the top of the soil to dry, but make sure the pot can drain and the tree is not getting waterlogged.

## FERTILITY

For mineral soils that are well-balanced, a yearly application of compost and an organic fertilizer high in nitrogen is ideal. It should be applied in early spring, mixed into the the top 6" of the soil in a broad ring underneath the drip line of the tree.

In the long-term, calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, and potassium, along with sufficient nitrogen, will significantly enhance tree health and fruit quality.

Citrus also benefit from application of micronutrients such as zinc, iron, manganese and magnesium, if these are at low-levels in your soils. Container grown citrus might need more frequent applications of nitrogen since watering may leach nitrogen. Periodic soil testing will show whether pH and nutrient needs are being met.

## FROST PROTECTION

To avoid damage by frost, protect trees with row covers or frost blankets. See our website, [GrowOrganic.com](http://GrowOrganic.com) for details on Frost Blankets or Agribon row covers. If trees are planted in containers, move them inside or to a greenhouse during cold weather.

## PRUNING

Citrus need little pruning, only its dead or broken branches. You may need to remove suckers from younger trees. Lemon trees need the most pruning of their vigorous branches.

## HARVESTING

New young trees will begin to fruit in their 3rd or 4th year. In general, the hotter your climate, the earlier you can harvest. Fruit grown on the coast ripen last. Color is not a good indicator of ripeness. Citrus fruit ripens on the tree and the best way to tell when to harvest your fruit is by taste.

## Return Policy

### Perishable Items (3-Day Return Policy)

We guarantee the perishable items we sell to be in good, viable condition when we sell them. Perishable items include, but are not limited to, garlic bulbs, flower bulbs, seed potatoes, onion sets & transplants, bare-root trees, vegetable crowns... etc. If your perishable item arrives in substandard condition, please contact us within 3 days of the purchase date (or delivery date) and we will provide you with a refund of the purchase price (including shipping costs), or a replacement. Accordingly, we urge you to open any boxes marked as "Perishable" immediately upon receiving them. Because some perishable items can deteriorate very quickly, we cannot accept any claims beyond the 3-day time frame as it becomes too difficult to determine if these items were delivered in substandard condition, or if they turned into such substandard condition because of having been improperly cared for or stored once delivered.

### Limited Product Guarantee

#### Limitation of Remedy

We warrant to the extent of the purchase price only that the seeds or plants sold hereunder are as described on the label within recognized tolerances. No other warranty is given, expressed or implied, of (1) the merchantability or fitness of the seeds or plants for any particular purpose, or (2) against loss due to any cause. We cannot accept any responsibility for the many uncontrollable growing and climatic conditions (soil preparation, fertilization, weed and pest control, temperature control, irrigation...etc.) that must be met to insure the success of your crop(s) or plants.



**Peaceful Valley Farm & Garden Supply**

P.O. Box 2209 • 125 Clydesdale Ct. • Grass Valley, CA 95945  
(888) 784-1722 • Fax (530) 272-4794  
[www.growOrganic.com](http://www.growOrganic.com)

*Follow Us on Social Media!*

