

# GROWING CITRUS IN THE NORTHWEST



## Water

The same as growing a plant in a container. Let the plant get somewhat dry between watering and in the winter they might not take as much water as they would in the summer.

## Fertilize

A citrus fertilizer like 'Espoma Citrus-tone' in the spring or summer prior to the flush of new growth and again in late August. If the plant becomes chlorotic (indicated by leaves that are yellowish in color) - an application of liquid iron may be needed.

## Pruning

Although dwarf citrus can grow to 6-8 feet, they can be pruned at any time to keep the plant compact and bushy. Repot in early spring when you see signs of new growth, but only if necessary (not yearly). They seem to like to be rootbound to encourage blooming. If you do not wish to 'pot up' to a larger size, treat the plant as a bonsai. Remove the plant, trim some top growth and some root growth, add soil and replant in same size container. Propagate by stem cuttings in late summer or early fall.

## Pests

Common spider mites, mealy bug and scale can occur. Use neem or horticultural oil to treat organically. Look for honeydew as an indicator of problems. The best cure is prevention. Contact Al's Indoor Plant Experts for further advice.

## Hardiness

These citrus plants are hardy to Zone 9. In the Northwest, many folks who grow citrus keep them outdoors mostly year-round. To protect against the winter conditions, move containerized plant close to the house and out of constant winter wind and rain. Remember to water as needed. If the temperature drops below 30° F, bring the plant into a more protected area like inside a garage or the home where temperatures will not freeze plant and return the plant to outdoors when temperatures rise.