

Meyer Lemon Tree (Citrus meyeri)



A Meyer Lemon Tree (*Citrus meyeri*) is a wonderful citrus tree option for your home or garden and is a great variety to grow in the UK. They are prized for the uniqueness of their fruit - a smaller, rounder fruit that is a delicious blend of Lemon and Mandarin, making them sweeter than regular lemons. Perfect with a G&T, served alongside fish or in a killer lemon tart, even the peel is edible and great for cooking, making candied peel or adding to a refreshing drink for an extra twist of flavour.

These trees are easy to care for and will thrive in a sunny conservatory or room, and can even handle outdoor conditions once well established.

Our Meyer Lemon trees are grafted onto Flying Dragon rootstock which makes them very hardy and able to survive temperatures down to -15°C once the tree is well established. To establish the tree, grow in a pot for the first two years and move in winter to protect it from frost. Trees can then be planted out during the spring growing season. This rootstock is not suitable for alkaline soils but will thrive in acidic conditions. Soil and irrigation water should have a pH of no greater than 6.

The Flying Dragon *Poncirus trifoliata* rootstock is a dwarfing variety that will reduce the height of the tree compared to an un-grafted tree but still allows for heights of 2.5m in optimum conditions. Trees will lose their leaves in winter to protect them from the cold conditions, fresh leaf growth will emerge in early spring and they should flower from March to August - the white or lavender blossoms smell incredible and pair perfectly with the shiny, dark evergreen leaves. The fruits ripen throughout the year ready for harvest during October – December.

This tree will make a great gift for gardeners or chefs, as well as being a lovely addition to your own space.



Planting

Outdoors a sunny, south facing, sheltered spot is desirable. Acidic soils are preferable, clay soils should be mixed with sand to allow for good drainage. Mounding the earth above the soil level is recommended in these conditions. In dry conditions once or twice weekly watering is preferable to little and often. A summer mulch will help maintain moisture and reduce risk of the roots drying out. Water logging is the most common ailment in the UK climate so please follow the drainage advice above and prevent the tree sitting in water.

In containers, use free draining compost, additional perlite or hardwood bark will improve drainage if the compost does not already contain these. Irrigation should be controlled to maintain the compost moist and never saturated. Re-pot every 1-2 years increasing the size of the pot each time. If you choose to move your tree in winter, remember to use a light pot you can easily pick up. Raise the base of the pot above the surrounding ground to allow for free drainage of any excess water.

Caring for your tree

A controlled release, nitrogen rich citrus fertiliser applied in spring will support growth, liquid fertilisers should be applied in low strengths little and often, to prevent excessive levels.

The most likely pest attack would come from aphid or mites. Encourage natural predators like ladybirds, lacewings and spiders. If evidence of these pests is seen, a spray bottle filled with water and a couple drops of mild dish detergent, will usually deter them. Keep trees dust free (mites loves dust) by gently rinsing the leaves with a very mild soap or rinsing outdoor trees with a hose every couple of weeks. All citrus trees require a period of night time temperatures below 12°C for optimum spring flowering. If flowering is prolific in the first two years it is recommended to remove some of the fruits when very small so the tree is not over burdened. A first and second year harvest of 6-12 fruits is considered sustainable. Trees may sprout shoots below the graft, these should be removed as soon they are observed.

Please don't hesitate to get in contact with The Wasabi Team if you have any questions

