

Tiger Lemon Tree (*Citrus limon folis variegata*)

Hardy to -5°C



Grafted onto vigorous Macrophylla rootstock and hardy down to -5°C, these variegated, evergreen Tiger Lemon trees have a sturdy foundation that encourages bushy growth while maintaining a compact, manageable size, perfect for pots, patios or conservatories.

The Macrophylla rootstock also improves cold tolerance, helping the tree cope with mild UK frosts.

Each tree stands approximately 60–80 cm tall (including pot) and remains bushy and attractive throughout the year.

Citrus trees grow best in slightly acidic to neutral soils (pH 6.0–7.0). Too alkaline or chalky conditions can cause the tree to experience nutrient deficiencies.

Although tolerant of light frost, these trees do best in a sheltered greenhouse or conservatory.

Container-grown trees can enjoy a south facing and sunny, protected spot outdoors during the warmer summer months, but should be brought indoors, somewhere bright and ideally humid, over the winter.

Planting

Use free draining, neutral to slightly acidic compost. Additional perlite or hardwood bark will improve drainage if the compost does not already contain these.

Watering should be controlled to ensure the compost is 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 indoors in winter remember to use a light pot.

Raise the base of the pot above the surrounding ground to allow for free drainage of any excess water.

Water logging is the most common ailment for citrus trees in the UK climate so please follow the drainage advice above and prevent the tree sitting in 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 of 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 fruiting 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.

Be warned, tiger lemon trees wear their hardiness on the outside, sporting very small sharp thorns that will make themselves known if not handled with care.

Trees may sprout shoots below the graft, these should be removed as soon they are observed.

Harvesting

The branches have short, sharp thorns, so care is required when handling, pruning, or harvesting the fruit.

Self-fertile, Tiger Lemon trees produce fragrant white flowers in spring, with the distinctive striped fruits gradually ripening towards the end of the year.

The fruit is bright yellow with orange stripes, and the flesh has a zesty, aromatic flavour with hints of mandarin, making it ideal for culinary uses.

The juice and zest can be used in desserts, sauces, marinades, cocktails or as a garnish, adding a unique twist to both sweet and savoury dishes.

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