



# Citrus Tree Plant Care



## ➤ What to Expect

Often times, during the shipment process, citrus leaves will wilt, yellow or initially drop. This is common as the USDA does not permit air vents in citrus shipments. However, as long as the bark is green, it will come back strong and healthy. Do not over water it, just keep the soil moist. Please contact us if the bark is no longer green. When planting or repotting the tree, make sure you gently 'fluff out' the roots. As the tree grows, the bark and branches start out green (which is young growth) and then become woody. The leaves will stay green, but the branches, eventually, will turn woody.

## ➤ Have an Issue? Let Us Make It Right!

We truly value our customers and your feedback helps us to grow. Before leaving feedback (if you have issues with your order) please give us a chance to make it right. Send an email with pictures and details to [cassandra@root98warehouse.com](mailto:cassandra@root98warehouse.com) or call us! Every plant is covered by our shipping warranty, meaning we guarantee your plants will be delivered in healthy condition. Cosmetic and minor damage to leaves or parts of the plant that do not affect the plant's establishment in your landscape may occur during the shipping/delivery process and are not covered by our warranty. Please trim any dried or yellow leaves and new fresh foliage will start growing soon. If your plant(s) arrive damaged or dead, we will happily replace it or issue a refund accordingly.

## ➤ How to Grow Citrus Outdoors

Dig a hole 2 to 3" wider than the root ball and 4" deeper. Fill the hole half full of water. Remove tree from pot and gently fluff roots. This stimulates the roots and promotes growth. Swish tree in water to allow loose dirt on bottom of root ball to fall in hole. Fill in with soil, and as you do pull up on the tree so taproot (the largest & main root) is straight. Ensure all air pockets are filled in, by packing the dirt down on mound. Water it in well.

**CARE FOR YOUR TREE:** Water the tree at least 3 times a week for the first two weeks, then gradually back off to twice a week. Water just enough to moisten the ground, you do not want to over saturate the ground. Do not over water the tree as this will promote root rot and damage the roots.

**FERTILIZE:** You will want to use a fertilizer made for Citrus. Follow directions on the package. A good choice for young trees is 8-8-8 or 10-10-10 fertilizer. Always place the fertilizer along the drip line.

**INSECTICIDES:** Insecticidal soaps deter insects and keep tree free of sooty mold that darkens leaves. We also recommend fish emulsion oil sprayed on leaves, this prevents insect eggs from attaching to leaves. It is also great foliar feed. Use it with molasses every 6 weeks to help prevent insects and feed your tree.

## ➤ How to Grow Patio Citrus

A 15-gallon capacity clay pot (17-18" diameter) is a good choice in containers because it adds needed weight closer to the plant's center of gravity, reducing the risk of upsetting a tree heavily laden with fruit.

**MEDIA:** A simple potting media can be mixed from equal components of Canadian Peat and Perlite. Mix in 3/4 lb. (1/2 cup) of fine Dolomite so the pH of the soil is around 5.5. Moisten soil until it barely stays in a ball when squeezed in your fist and so no water can be squeezed out.

**PLANTING:** Scrape some of original soil away from the top of plant's root ball until some of the roots show. Plant the tree in the center of the pot to a height at which the top of the root ball is even with new soil level. Citrus are very susceptible to developing root rot if there is too much soil banked around the trunk of the tree. Allow a little of the root ball to show, to prevent rot.

**LIGHT REQUIREMENTS:** Citrus love as much light as you can give them. Place near a window that receives as much light as possible, preferably south-facing. The more light the trees are given, the better they will grow and the more fruit they will produce. Supplemental grow lights can help keep the tree healthy. If practical, move plant outdoors during warm months to soak up sunlight and humidity.

**TEMPERATURE:** Citrus actively grow in temperatures between 50 and 100 degrees, with 75-90 degrees being optimum. It will not hurt the plant to keep it cold and allow it to go dormant for the winter; great care should be taken not to let the plant freeze.

**WATER:** Citrus trees love humidity, but hate continuously wet roots, so be careful not to over water your tree. Allow the root ball to dry well, but not to the point of wilt, then soak heavily. Spritz the foliage daily with a spray bottle or place a humidifier near the tree to help produce sweeter fruit and a healthier plant. A pan filled with gravel and water, placed under the container, is a low-cost alternative. Do not place tree in the path of a heater vent.

**FERTILIZER:** Once a month, use a water-soluble fertilizer with a 20-20-20 analysis that also has minor elements. Place 2 Tbsp (22g) of fertilizer in a gallon of water and apply to tree's root ball, then water as normal. A water soluble minor element solution, applied to foliage will improve the intake of minor elements.