

## Growing Citrus

### Which one to buy

Standard citrus have full-size trunks and grow from 12-25' tall.

Dwarf citrus are the same varieties as standards grafted onto a dwarfing rootstock which will keep growth between 6-10' tall—in the ground, 8' is average. Plants in containers can be kept to 5-6' with moderate pruning or pinching.

### Choosing a site

Citrus want a warm, sunny exposure protected from wind. Additional growing heat can be provided by selecting a site which receives reflected heat from surfaces such as house walls, fences, patio surfaces or walkways. Soil can range from adobe to sandy, but soil rich in humus is preferred. The most important factor, however, is good drainage. If you're unsure about how your soil drains: dig a test hole and keep it filled with water to saturate the soil. The next day refill with water. If your drainage is OK, the water level should drop at least 2" in 2 hours. If the water does not drain, plan on planting your citrus in a raised bed or container.

Dwarf citrus do wonderfully in containers and moveable pots allow you to shift the plant in winter to a site which may be more protected from frost. Any pot or wooden tub which is approximately 16-24" in diameter will do. Again, make sure there are adequate drainage holes. If you use a saucer under the pot, make sure water does not collect causing the plant to "sit" in water for more than a few hours after you have watered the plant.

### Planting

Prepare the site by digging a hole deep enough to accommodate the depth of the soil ball. Mix this "back-fill" soil with *Gold Rush™ Fir Bark Mulch*. A handful of granular *Master Nursery™ Citrus Food* can be scattered in the bottom of the hole. Remove the plant from its can and gently loosen the outside of the rootball to straighten any circling roots—this will promote rooting into the new planting soil. Place the rootball into the hole making sure that the crown or graft is 2-3 inches above the grade level. Some settling of the soil will occur after watering, so this is very important. Back-fill the hole with the prepared soil gently packing it around the rootball—do not leave air pockets. Next create a water basin around the plant and slowly fill it with water. Do this several times to thoroughly saturate the roots. Repeat this watering in 2 days and again in one week. Continue watering regularly every week, more or less, depending on your soil and climate.

Container planting follows the same basic procedure. Use *Master Nursery™ Planting Mix* and allow ample depth from the top of the pot for watering space. Fill soil around the root ball, scatter a little granular *Master Nursery™ Citrus Food* on top and water thoroughly.

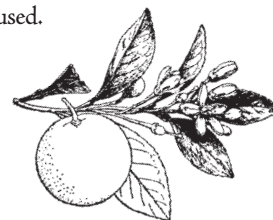
### Watering

Correct watering is an acquired skill, but close observation of the plant will help you determine when to water. Watch for wilting new growth, cupping of leaves, leaf or fruit drop—all of these are indications of the need for water. Water thoroughly and deeply—soak the root zone. Newly planted trees will need more frequent watering until they are established. Older trees can go longer due to their larger root zone. Plants in containers need to be checked frequently. Consistent watering is important especially while fruit is maturing.

Mulching is recommended to help preserve soil moisture and restrict the growth of weeds. Almost any material can be used—decorative bark or rock, peat moss, oak leaves, pine needles, etc.

### Fertilizing

Citrus should be fed monthly during the growing season from late February to early September. Apply granular *Master Nursery™ Citrus Food*, or water soluble *Master Nursery™ All-Purpose Plant Food* over the entire root area—out to and slightly beyond the "drip-line". When using dry (granular) fertilizer try to fertilize just ahead of a good rain or prior to irrigation. Plants in containers should always be watered prior to fertilizing and afterward if a granular fertilizer is used.



### Pruning

Little or no pruning is necessary on citrus, however, the occasional erratic branch can be cut way back. Citrus round out naturally into a shapely shrub or tree—to expedite this pinch off the tips of new growth. Do special or restorative pruning in Spring.

### Protection from frost

Frost susceptibility will vary by variety and whether the plant is grown in the ground or a container. In general, established plants, growing in the ground, can withstand short exposures below 32°F with little difficulty, however, the severe frosts of recent years have proved that prolonged periods of temperatures in the low 20's and teens will damage many varieties of citrus. New plants, and those in containers, should be protected by covering in the evening with tented sheets of "Frost Cloth"—uncover during the day. Anti-desiccant sprays, such as *Cloud Cover*, have been shown to be useful in frost protection. Containerized plants can, of course, be moved to a frost protected area under an awning, patio cover or indoors.

# CITRUS GUIDE

VARIETY	AKA	RIPENS	USE	SEEDS	FLAVOR	ORIGIN
<b>Sweet Oranges:</b>						
Cara Cara	Red Navel	Nov-Mar	eating	None	sweet cherry flavor	Venezuela
Lane Late	Late Navel	Jan-Mar	eating	few	honeydew melon taste	Australia
Midnight Valencia	Seedless Valencia	Mar-Sep	juice/eating	none	sweet orange flavor	South Africa
Moro Blood	Blood Orange (Darkest Red)	Dec-Apr	eating	few	sweet to tart—berrylike	Sicily
Robertson Navel	Cluster Navel	Nov-Apr	eating	none	moderately juicy	Brazil
Sanguinelli Blood	Spanish Orange	Feb-Jun	eating	none	sweet plum flavor	Sicily
Trovita	Sweet Orange	Nov-Jun	juice	none	mild flavor	Brazil
Valencia	Summer Orange	Mar-Oct	juice	few	sweet orange flavor	China
Washington Navel	California Navel	Nov-Mar	eating	none	excellent	Brazil
<b>Mandarins:</b>						
Clementine	Algerian	Nov-Apr	eating	few	sweet, juicy	Algeria
Dancy	Christmas Tangerine	Dec-Apr	eating	many	tart, plum-like finish	China
Encore		May-Aug	eating	many	rich & very sweet	California
Fremont	Four Winds Mandarin	Winter	eating	few	rich, juicy, tender flesh	California
Honey		Dec-Apr	eating	many	rich, honey-like flavor	California
Kara		Mar-Jun	eating	many	juicy, sprightly flavor	California
Kinnow		Jan-May	eating	many	rich, aromatic	California
Owari Satsuma		Oct-Dec	eating	none	sweet, delicate flavor	Japan
W. Murcott	Afourer	Jan-May	eating	few	excellent rich flavor	Morocco
<b>Lemons:</b>						
Eureka	Market Lemon	all year	juice	few	high acid flavor	California
Improved Meyer		all year	juice	many	sweeter juice than most lemons	China
Lisbon	Desert Lemon	Oct-Aug	juice	few	extremely juicy and acidic	Australia
Ponderosa	Giant Lemon	all year	ornamental	many	true acidic lemon flavor	Italy
Sungold	Striped Lemon	all year	juice	few	acidic flavor, yellow flesh	
Variiegated Pink Eureka	Striped Lemon	Nov-Feb	juice	few	high acid flavor, pink color	
<b>Limes:</b>						
Bears	Commercial Variety	Aug-May	juice	few	juicy, true acid lime flavor	Florida
Mexican	Bartender's/Key Lime	Aug-Dec	juice	few	highly aromatic, juicy	Asia
Rangpur	Mandarin Lime	Nov-Dec	ornamental	few	highly acidic juice—orange flesh	India
Kaffir	Indonesian		leaves		aromatic leaves for cooking	Indonesia
<b>Grapefruit:</b>						
Rio Red	Red Grapefruit	18-24 mo.	juice/eating	few	excellent red flesh	Texas
Oro Blanco	Pummelo/Grapefruit Cross	18-24 mo.	eating	none	thick skin, sweet tasting fruit	California
Star Ruby	Red Grapefruit	18-24 mo.	juice/eating	none	yellow rind, juicy, red flesh"	Texas
Marsh (Reed)	White Grapefruit	18-24 mo.	juice/eating	none	juicy, white flesh	Florida
<b>Pummelo:</b>						
Chandler	Largest Citrus Fruit	Dec-Jun	eating	many	aromatic, sweet flavor—low acid	Asia
<b>Kumquat/Limequat:</b>						
Nagami Kumquat		Dec-Apr	eating	few	tender/sweet—eat rind & all	China
Meiwa Kumquat		Nov-Apr	eating	few	rich & sweet as candy	China
Eustis Limequat	(Lime Substitute)	Nov-Jul	juice	few	lime-like juice, flavor & aroma	Florida
Taveres Limequat	(Lime Substitute)	Nov-Jul	juice	few	lime-like juice, flavor & aroma	
<b>Other Hybrids:</b>						
Minneola Tangelo	Grapefruit/Tangerine Cross	Jan-May	eating	few	tart, honey-like sweet flavor	Florida
Murcott (Tangor)	Murcott Honey Orange	Feb-Apr	eating	many	rich & very Sweet	Florida
Cocktail	Pummelo/Mandarin Cross	Feb-Jun	eating		orange sweet flesh—very juicy	California
Melogold	Pummelo/Grapefruit Cross	18-24 mo.	juice/eating	few	white sweet flesh—very juicy	California
<b>Other Ornamentals:</b>						
Calamondin	Philippine Lime	Nov-Aug	ornamental	few	juicy, acidic flesh	China
Ettog Citron		all year	ornamental	many	rind makes candied fruit	India
Buddha'S Hand	Fingered Citron	all year	ornamental	many	fragrant symbol of happiness	China
Bergamot			ornamental	many	all parts very fragrant	Italy
Flying Dragon (deciduous)			ornamental	many	fragrant blossoms—inedible fruit	
Chinotto	Sour Orange		ornamental	many	used as centerpiece decoration	Italy
Seville	Sour Orange		juice	many	use juice in marinade	Spain

## Information Sources:

Four Winds Citrus Guide  
Orchard Nursery Plant Database  
Willits & Newcomb Guide  
The Great Citrus Book

## other Info:

Tangelo = Mandarin / Grapefruit Cross  
Tangor = Mandarin / Orange Cross  
Mandarin and Tangerine are the same thing