



Basic Planting and Care of Your Citrus Tree

Thank you very much for your purchase. Growing citrus isn't the easiest endeavor. However, we have listed a few things below that should help you be successful with your new tree. Keep in mind that citrus cannot just be planted and left to grow. It does require a fair amount of care

WARNING: Trees should be kept out of direct sunlight until planted. If pot is left lying on side in the sun, it will "bake" the roots normally resulting in death of the tree. Remove plastic bag as soon as you get out of the box.

Planting in Ground

- 1. Choose your planting site.** Trees should be planted 15 feet apart and 15 feet (dwarfs 8 feet) away from house or other large trees. Citrus trees do not like standing water. They prefer sandy soils. A site that receives full sun works best, but at least 50% sun is needed. Planting on the southern side of a house, lake or other structure that offers wind protection will help protect your tree from cold.
- 2. Clear away weeds and grass.** Dig a hole 8 - 10 inches larger than the root ball of the tree.
IMPORTANT: Fill hole with water.
- 3. Remove tree from pot and place in water filled hole.** Plant at the level it was grown in the nursery (the same level as the top of the root ball). Do not put the bud union (graft) below the soil.
- 4. Add soil back to the hole filling all air pockets under and around the root ball. (THIS IS A CRITICAL STEP)**
- 5. Newly planted trees should be watered regularly** (daily for first week) for the first three months, if rains are inadequate. After the first week, allow the soil to dry down between watering

DO NOT MIX FERTILIZER IN HOLE BEFORE PLANTING.

However, you can spread fertilizer on the ground around the tree the same day you plant

Planting in Containers

Choose a container that is 7 to 15 gallon size (at least 14" deep).

- 1. Select a soil mix.** You want a well-drained soil, not heavy topsoil. Any of the commercially available potting mixes should work as long as they will drain, some are labeled for citrus and cactus. Mixes with wood chips are a good choice. Do NOT use soil mixes that contain moisture control additives.
- 2. Place soil in bottom of pot so that the tree is placed in the pot with the existing soil level at the top of the new soil level.** If pot is not as deep as the root ball, then cut off roots. Never bend the tap root to make it fit. Do not put the bud union (graft) below the soil.
- 2. Finish filling pot with soil, taking care to pack well so all air is removed. (THIS IS A CRITICAL STEP)**
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- 4. Water thoroughly.** Watering will probably be more frequent since your tree is not planted in the ground. Let soil dry between watering. If tree stands in water, it will get root disease. Although you may need to water daily for the first week or two.
- 5. Slow release fertilizers work great with container trees, but you still need one with minor elements.**
You can fertilize more frequently with smaller amounts.



Fertilizing

When you fertilize your citrus tree, you should use a specialized citrus fertilizer. Fertilizers that are formulated for citrus trees contain micronutrients and minerals that citrus trees need to grow and produce fruit.

Always apply citrus fertilizer according to the directions on the fertilizer package. If you are unable to find a citrus-specific fertilizer, use a complete acid-type fertilizer such as azalea food. Avoid using fertilizers formulated for turf or lawn grass, because these contain higher percentages of nitrogen that will grow glorious green trees, but far less blooms and fruit.

Fertilize at least every 3 - 4 months (November, March, June, and August). You can fertilize more often, just reduce the amount. Use a citrus fertilizer at a rate of 1 - 2 lbs. for every year of age. Fertilizer should be applied around drip line of tree not up next to the trunk. Fertilizer should contain minor elements, not just N-P-K. You can also use slow release fertilizer.

Avoid fertilizing citrus trees after the end of August. Late fertilization will encourage vigorous growth, delay fruit maturity and decrease the cold hardiness of the tree



Cold Weather Care

While some citrus varieties are cold tolerant, most citrus is not. Citrus is a sub-tropical plant. Regardless of where you live, it may be necessary to protect your tree during freezing conditions.

If the plant is still in a container, set the plant indoors if there is the possibility of a frost or freeze.

If a freeze is forecast, cover the tree with a sheet or blanket. Covering should be removed when outside temperature reaches 36 degrees or more. If several freezing nights are expected, you can build a "mini-greenhouse" out of PVC pipe around your tree and then cover with blankets or plastic. This would not have to be removed until cold weather was past. Just don't let the covering touch the leaves. Also, trees should be well hydrated before a freeze. Plan to water very heavily the day before freezing temperatures are expected. Some leaf drop can be expected following a freeze, but this should be a temporary situation.

NEVER prune the tree after a hard freeze until the new growth is well underway. If no new growth appears on the tree by late spring, the tree has sustained severe damage. Any new growth above the graft is new flush and is a good sign the tree has survived the freeze and should continue to produce. Any new growth below the graft (bud union) will be citrus rootstock and should be removed.



Spraying

All citrus trees must be treated with a systemic drench prior to being sold. This is to prevent the Asian citrus psyllid from spreading that could turn into citrus greening. This treatment also kills any insect that feeds on the leaves (aphids white flies, leaf minor). These are just suggested pesticides and insecticides. Other brands can also be used: Bonide- All Season Horticultural & Dormant Spray Oil, Bonide Fruit Spray, Bonide Copper Fungicide, Monterey Citrus Leafminer Trap & Lure, Hi Yield Slug & snail bait, Fertilome Tree & Shrub Systemic Insect Drench, Neem Oil, Citrus Spray Oil, Bayer Fruit, Citrus and Vegetable.

****USE ALL CHEMICALS ACCORDING TO PACKAGE INSTRUCTIONS****

The Tree was PRUNED before shipping to encourage growth after transportation shock. During the growing process, we periodically prune the trees to shape them and maintain their size on the bench. This does not harm the tree in any way, but its' top isn't quite as pretty. If your tree has been recently pruned, the new growth will start shortly and it will help the tree develop more branches. We appreciate your understanding this important aspect of the growing process.

During transport, it is NORMAL for some of the leaves to fall off and SMALL branches to break. Don't panic - just follow these instructions.

If your tree arrives and begins losing leaves due to transportation shock, which is NORMAL, please sprinkle a tablespoon of Epson salt around the trunk of tree into the soil. Then water.

If your tree arrives with a few broken SMALL branches, this is also NORMAL, please cut back about 1-2" from the break. In 3 to 4 weeks, new growth will begin to come out.

If you receive a tree that has been damaged by the shipping carrier, or arrives in poor condition, please save the packaging and contact us immediately at CustomerCare@Yarden.com. You must contact us within three days of the arrival of the damaged tree. We require photos of the entire tree and the container along with a photo of the box the tree was shipped in. Once we receive photos of the tree and box we will be happy to resolve your issue.



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