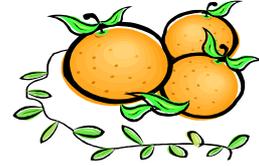


## Fact Sheet

# Citrus



Citrus trees are among the most widely grown fruiting and ornamental trees in Tasmania. Most citrus grown are lemon trees however there are a number of other varieties that are also popular in home gardens.

They do best in a sunny position protected from cold winds and prefer a sandy soil as heavy clay soils can become too wet. If soil is heavy it may be necessary to "mound" the tree to raise the soil level. They have shallow root systems and hence can dry out quickly.

It is recommended that the fruit should be removed for the first couple of years to encourage leaf growth rather than have the tree put it's energy into fruit production.

Fertilise with a citrus fertiliser such as Yates Gro Plus Citrus Food in early autumn and early spring. Water before and after application of fertiliser or else surface roots may burn, for the same reason NEVER use fresh manure. They will need lots of water during the growing season. Feed at the "drip line" under the outer foliage.

Pruning should not be really necessary other than to shape the tree to keep it compact. Remove dead and weak branches and maintain air circulation within plant.

### Citrus varieties:



#### Lemons

More cold tolerant than most other citrus producing good quality fruit even in cool climates.

#### *Recommended varieties:*

**Meyer** - not really a true lemon but a hybrid orange/lemon cross, therefore not as acid to taste. Most cold tolerant variety in Tasmanian conditions, therefore the most popular variety sold. Relatively small tree with profuse small fruit. Meyer makes an excellent tub specimen.

**Eureka** - small thornless tree which produces lemon throughout the year. Needs a sheltered position.

**Lisbon** - vigorous, thorny tree, bears main crop in winter and will tolerate some heavy soils.

**Lemonade** - medium sized bushy tree, produces less acidic fruit than the true lemon, making a wonderful drink without sugar.

### **Sweet Orange**

Oranges need a long, mild, warm growing season. Excellent ornamental tree.

#### **Recommended varieties:**

**Washington Navel** - seedless, very juicy fruit, matures in mid winter. Highly recommended variety for home garden.

**Valencia** - larger tree than the Washington Navel, matures in late spring, fruit can remain on the tree for several months. Very sweet fruit which has some seeds. They have a thicker skin and are the best variety for juicing. Tend to bear biennially.



### **Mandarin**

Easy to peel, easy to segment, fruit with distinctive taste. Somewhat frost resistant but needs more heat than oranges to produce sweet fruit. Smaller and bushier than orange trees. Use scissors to harvest from tree.

#### **Recommended varieties:**

**Emperor** - mid season variety with large juicy fruit with rough skin, that peels easily. Seeds galore but excellent flavour.

**Ellendale** - excellent quality fruit, matures late season. Large and juicy but skin is tighter and more difficult to peel.

**Imperial** - early maturing. Fruit needs to be thinned. Dry tasting fruit.

### **Grapefruit**



Large fruit that grows in bunches. Needs long warm summers to produce quality sweet fruit.

#### **Recommended varieties:**

**Marsh Seedless** - most widely grown variety. Matures early winter. Mild flavour.

**Wheeny** - Australian variety. Large, seeded fruit. Adapts well to cool climate. Many seeds with a lemon like flavour.

**Ruby** - Pink fleshed variety of Marsh Seedless.



### **Cumquats**

Small attractive trees ideal for small gardens or containers. The most hardy and cold resistant of the citrus family. Small dark green leaves, masses of white blossom in summer. Slightly acid fruit, excellent for marmalades or an excellent liqueur.

#### **Recommended variety:**

*Nagami* - most common variety grown. Fruit stays on tree for months. Fruit resembles a small orange with very thin skin.

### **Lime**

Lemon like fruit with a greenish-yellow skin, few seeds and excellent flavour. Delicious for drinks and fruit salads. Good container specimens they need more heat than lemons. Pick when fully ripe as they don't keep well past maturity.

#### **Recommended varieties:**

*Tahitian Lime* - almost thornless variety with seedless fruit. Very fragrant flowers. Fruit used in many Asian dishes.

*Kaffir Lime* - highly scented glossy green leaves, that have a lemony flavour. Often used in Thai & other Asian cooking. Very thorny plants. Not generally grown for fruit

*West Indian lime*—a good variety producing small round juicy fruit. A heavy bearer that will tolerate light frosts once established.

### **Pests**

Main pest problem for citrus, is scale (a small shell like sap sucking insect). Spray all over tree with white oil emulsion to control the problem. Other problems like aphids can be kept in check with pyrethrum sprays, and snails with either snail bait or a half strength bordeaux spray around the base.

### **Containers**

Citrus trees make wonderful tub specimens for courtyards, patios and verandahs. Plant in good size tubs such as half wine barrel using a good quality potting mix, we recommend Stoneman's Premium Potting Mix and position in warm, sunny frost free position. Fertilise with Osmocote Plus twice yearly or liquid feed with Phostrogen monthly during the growing season.

