

# Citrus

DID YOU KNOW THAT  
THE MOST COLD  
HARDY CITRUS IS  
THE ARCTIC FROST  
SATSUMA?

## GROWING CITRUS

The Citrus family, including lemons, limes, oranges, grapefruit, satsumas, and more, is a favorite choice for gardeners all over the nation. Citrus are tropical plants, so they need extra care in colder climates. In fact, most citrus north of zone 9 will need to be planted in a pot so that they can be brought in during periods of extended freezes. Read on to learn more about how to care for citrus in all USDA zones!

## ZONES 1-4

Almost all citrus requires full sun and warm weather to survive and produce a sizable crop. Unfortunately, the climate in zones 1-4 is typically not compatible with citrus. Therefore, we do not recommend growing citrus in zones 1-4. If you live



## ZONES 5-8

Zones 5-8 are not quite as warm as the tropics, however, they are warm enough areas to grow citrus if you are careful. We suggest keeping most citrus grown in zones 5-8 in pots. That way, they can be moved inside when temperatures drop below freezing. Make sure to move them into either a greenhouse or a well-lit, airy sunroom. Also, make sure they are moved outside for pollination as soon as flowers begin to bud.

## ZONES 9-13

Zones 9-13 (the tropics) are where citrus will thrive! As the weather year-round is usually warm enough, citrus can be planted in the ground without risking freeze damage. Make sure to plant in an area where the tree will be in well-draining soil, with plenty of sun exposure.

## MAINTENANCE

All citrus are prone to root rot, so do not over-water (2 times per week is usually enough), and plant in very well-draining soil. We suggest 1 part potting soil and 1 part sand mixture or a 5-1-1 blend. In addition, make sure to plant in an area that has full sun. After the first year, spring pruning and fertilization will stimulate new growth and fruit production.

## COMMON PESTS AND DISEASES

Like any fruit tree, citrus can develop fungal infections and/or pest problems if not cared for properly. It's important to regularly check on your citrus to identify and treat any developing diseases or infestations.

### Aphids

If your tree's leaves start to curl and wilt, your tree may be too dry and need watering, but it is likely that aphids are taking shelter in them. The best way to get rid of them is by physically removing the aphids from the leaves. Using gloves, the bugs can easily be removed and squashed. You will then want to spray with an insecticide like neem oil or Spinosad. This treatment should eliminate the pesky bugs.

### Leaf Miners

Squiggly lines on the leaves or distorted, stunted leaves indicate small larva are feeding inside the leaves,. This won't kill trees, but they will be stunted and unhealthy, reducing yield. Cut off any damaged, curled or rolled leaves that might be hiding the pupae. Spray with horticultural oil to deter the moth from laying new eggs. The oil won't kill the larvae which is why it's important to remove any infested growth. Spray first thing in the morning to avoid spraying beneficial insects which are less active at this time. This also reduces the chance of burning foliage

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