

Success with citrus...

Planting:

- Plant in a sunny, sheltered aspect with well drained soil.
- Dig a hole twice the size of the root ball.
- Mix 3 – 4 buckets of compost into the extracted soil.
- Backfill the hole to half way with composted soil and compact lightly.
- Place tree in the hole, adjusting the soil height so the top of the root ball sits at ground level.
- Cut away the plastic bag, disturbing roots as little as possible.
- Backfill around the root ball with composted soil, compacting soil lightly as you go.
- Sprinkle slow release fertiliser around the tree.
- Water well to settle the plant into the soil.
- Mulch with fine bark, keeping bark away from the trunk.
- Remove fruit in the first season to channel energy into strong growth.

Watering:

- Regular, deep watering is vital for the first 2 – 3 seasons.
- Water container citrus thoroughly every 2 - 3 days during hot, dry spells.

Feeding:

- Feed with controlled release fertiliser in spring and autumn.
- Supplement with liquid plant food, weekly in spring and summer, fortnightly in autumn.

Pruning:

- Prune only to remove dead or damaged wood.
- Prune topiary citrus in spring.

Spraying:

- Spray with copper at petal fall and again two weeks later to control disease.
- Spray with spraying oil during winter to kill insect eggs.
- Watch for insect infestations and spray if necessary over summer.



Troubleshooting...

Yellow leaves:

- Check soil drainage, transplant tree if drainage is poor.
 - On heavy soils, plant on a 1m diameter mound, raised 300mm above soil level.
- Fertilise tree with Citrus Fertiliser in spring and autumn.

Brown leaves:

- Tree is exposed to cold winds – shelter from prevailing wind with wind break cloth.
- Transplant to a sheltered area, or plant or erect permanent shelter.

Tree shedding leaves:

- Problems: cold winds / poor drainage / too dry.
- Solutions: move plant to sheltered, well drained position / erect shelter / water regularly.

Tree shedding small fruit:

- Citrus trees often shed fruit of their own accord in summer to compensate for their size and health.
- Thin out heavy crops in early summer to reduce the energy output of the tree.

Borer

- Prune off borer infected wood in winter and syringe insecticide down the entry holes.