

CITRUS

Citrus

Beloved for their fragrant blooms and delicious fruits, citrus trees are a popular houseplant and patio accent for many. The genus 'Citrus' is comprised of many of the widespread fruit crops that we see across the world, originating primarily in parts of Australia and Asia.

Planting + General Care

Place in **direct light** coming from the South or West. In summer, citrus can be placed outdoors, where they are getting plenty of bright indirect light to full sun. Brighter light will encourage blooming, leaving you with very beautiful fragrant flowers. Maintain average temperatures between 55° and 85° F during active growth and temperatures as low as 50°F during dormancy.

Water thoroughly, letting the soil dry out moderately (but not fully) between waterings. Mist occasionally. Citrus does not like “wet feet.” Make sure it is planted in a well-draining and fertile potting mix with the additions of sand, peat, compost, and perlite to retain moisture, but also ensure adequate airflow. [Espoma Organic Cactus Mix](#) is a great option for citrus.

Small types respond well when grown in pots, but larger species may need more pruning to stay a certain size for room use. The plant should be pruned in the spring, never prune more than 1/3 of the foliage. Citrus may require hand pollination to set fruit if it blooms indoors. Check out our video to see how easy it is!

mahoneysgarden.com/video-how-to-hand-pollinate-your-citrus-plants

Fertilizing

Feed every 3-4 weeks during the growing season with a fertilizer meant for Citrus trees like True Organic Citrus and Avocado Food or [Espoma Citrus Tone](#). Do not fertilize in winter.

Propagation

Stem cuttings with a heel can be used to propagate from a mother plant, otherwise, citrus can be grown from seed. A heel cutting is where you cut part way through the stem, gently pulling downward to retain the tail of bark on the end. It is best to propagate any type of cuttings in a mix of moist [peat](#) and [perlite](#). Cover the pot and plant with a plastic bag secured by a rubber band to prevent the moisture from escaping. Place in indirect sunlight. Repot in its regular mix after it has been growing for several weeks..

Common Problems + Solutions

Prone to scale, spider mites, mealybugs, and thrips. Always inspect any new plant for pests before introducing it to your home or greenhouse. [Horticultural oil](#) is the best combatant to an infestation, and most effective if used during the dormant period of the plant, in late winter. Depending on the severity, spring and fall applications may be necessary. Do not spray in direct sunlight as it can burn the foliage. [Insecticidal soap](#) is the most effective against mealybugs.

Overwatering and nitrogen deficiency can cause pale green or yellowing of the leaves, as well as premature leaf drop. Be sure to select a fertilizer with a higher nitrogen content and adhere to the label directions.