

# Citrus

**DID YOU KNOW  
THAT THE MOST COLD-  
HARDY CITRUS TREE 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 it 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 unless it can be kept inside a heated greenhouse.

## **ZONES 5-8**

Zones 5-8 are warm-enough areas to grow citrus if you keep them in large pots in a well-lit, sunny window or a greenhouse during cold temps. If flowers bloom during the winter months, you can help them become better pollinated by touching the tips of each bloom with a Q-tip. In Zone 8, the Arctic Frost and Orange Frost Satsumas can generally be planted in the ground.

## **ZONES 9-12**

Zones 9-12 (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

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.

## COMMON PESTS

### 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 organic 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 if left untreated, they can stunt the growth of the tree, reducing yield. Cut off any damaged, curled or rolled leaves that might be hiding the pupae. Spray with horticultural oil. The oil will deter the moth from laying new eggs, but it won't kill the larvae. This 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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