



ELGIN NURSERY

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WHAT ARE DWARF CITRUS?

They are fruit producing varieties, grafted on cultivar specific dwarfing rootstocks. If grown in the ground, they are highly productive and average eight feet tall, depending on the variety. They will be smaller if grown in a container.

PLANTING LOCATION

Southern sun exposure is best. It is best to avoid locations that receive frequent shallow watering, as well as windy locations. Microclimates are created by reflective heat from houses and provide heat for frost protection or summer growth, if needed. It is also very important to allow room for the tree's mature growth.

PROPER DRAINAGE

Check the drainage by digging a hole and filling it with water to saturate the soil. Refill the hole with water the next day. If water drops 2 inches in two hours the drainage is good. If drainage is poor, plant in a raised area or in a container.

CONTAINER PLANTING

Use a light, well drained mix. Be sure there are numerous drainage holes. Upper roots may be exposed. Water thoroughly. Water weekly. It may be necessary to water more often in the summer months.

FERTILIZING

Citrus trees thrive with balanced fertilizer. If a fertilizer contains trace minerals, and has more Nitrogen than Phosphorus and Potassium, it will work well. Follow the manufacturer's recommendation. Water soluble fertilizer can be used on foliage and soil. Granular or slow release fertilizer is sprinkled on the soil and watered in. Fertilizer stakes are not recommended. Yellow leaves are most likely an indication of lack of fertilizer or overly wet roots. Citrus food is sold at our nursery.

SUCKERING

Suckers will prevent your tree from thriving. Remove all the growth below the graft.

PRUNING

You can prune your trees to any shape. They will look fuller with occasional pruning to shape leggy branches. Pinching back new growth will help the trees to round out. If your tree develops erratic growth above the graft, cut it back. Pruning can be done in the spring or fall in Arizona.

FROST PROTECTION

If temperatures are predicted to drop below 32 degrees, use frost blankets, Christmas lights, or ant-transparent sprays. Young trees and lemons and limes require protection from cold weather.

SUN PROTECTION

Paint the trunks of your citrus trees with special tree paint. It is available in white and brown.