

CHERRY VALLEY NURSERY

CITRUS 101



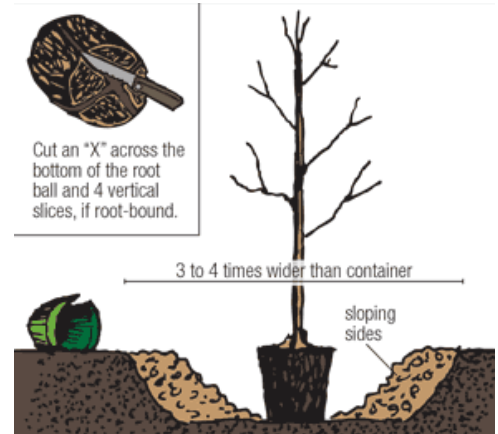
Planting Site

If possible, select a site where soil drains well. Avoid planting in a lawn. If the soil is heavy and shows the presence of clay, it is of utmost importance to check for proper drainage. Drainage test: a) Fill hole with water. b) When water completely drains away, fill the hole a second time. c) If the second filling takes more than 12 hours to empty, there is a drainage problem. If it is not corrected, the tree will probably not survive. To fix drainage issues use Ground Breaker by Green As It Gets, or a Chimney Drain, by digging a single hole, down 3' & fill with 3/8" rock.

Planting

Dig preplant hole twice as wide as the root system and same depth. Place tree in hole making sure it rests slightly above ground level. Avoid breaking root ball when transplanted, but score rootball (sides & bottom) if heavily rooted. Turn to best side, make sure it's straight, and back fill with 50% native soil and 50% Citrus & Palm Soil. While planting, flood the hole & allow it to drain making sure all root system is saturated, especially in hotter temperatures.

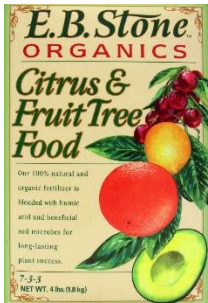
When transplanting a boxed tree, lay the box sideways, remove the bottom. Place the entire tree in pre-planted hole with box still attached. Once in hole, turn to best side, make sure it's straight & at correct height, cut straps and remove side.



Watering

How often to water depends on many things: variety of citrus, soil type & climate. To ensure adequate moisture, the soil should be thoroughly wet before wilting occurs. Alternate wetting and drying, allows oxygen needed for root growth to enter the soil and dry out the root system. On the other hand, saturated, airless soil creates an unfavorable environment for beneficial soil organisms and encourages diseases & insects. A water meter can help determine how deep the water is penetrating into the soil. Moisture to a depth of four feet or beyond is ideal, which you will not reach with overhead sprinkler water. Drip irrigation or a hose, should be used for a ***long duration of time at a low flow, infrequently***. Establishment will take approximately 6 months to two years. After establishment, depending on heat and wind, you will want to water anywhere from 7 days to 2 weeks. In cooler times, 2 weeks to once a month. This will establish a **deep** root system.

Fertilization



You may use EB Stone Organic Sure Start 4-6-2 in the hole when you plant. For established trees, use **EB Stone Organic Citrus 7-3-3**. Citrus are heavy nitrogen feeders, it is important to stay regular with feedings. Citrus also like a slightly acidic soil PH, you may need to add Soil Sulfur or FST to lower the PH in the soil. We recommend **FST and/or Citrus Growers Blend** for its micronutrient content, apply Spring & Fall or as needed if your leaves are deficient in color. Apply EB Stone Citrus & Fruit Tree Food starting in late February or March (depending on cold) begin feeding, apply every other month, ending in October so you don't encourage new growth going into the cold season.



Pest Control

Citrus have many pests that like to invade. We commonly see problems when they are improperly watered, planted, & fertilized. The most dangerous threat to citrus is the ACP - Asian Citrus Psyllid, it is vital to prevent these pests on your tree. They carry a deadly disease HLB - Huanglongbing. Leaf Miner, Scale, & Thrips are other common threats to citrus, as they can do much damage to the leaves and put the tree under un-necessary stress. For a natural solution, we recommend **Bonide Orchard Spray & Captain Jacks Dead bugs brew**. Apply Captain Jacks in spring, then alternate with Orchard Spray later in early summer. We are avoiding spraying orchard spray in spring to avoid harming a beneficial wasp, but this is one of the best solutions for Psyllid control. Captain Jacks will soak into the leaf for a longer effect for leafminer, but will not help with Psyllids. You should be spraying preventatively starting spring, thru fall. Do not spray if temperatures are over 85 degrees. Spray in the evening, this is an oil-based product, it can burn. It would be safe to test a small area of leaves. **It is important to spray every time new growth that has emerged.**



Pruning

Unlike most temperate fruit trees, which must be pruned carefully and frequently for best fruit production, citrus requires no drastic annual pruning. You may prune after fruiting to keep shape at desired height. Remove any damaged or decaying wood throughout the tree and seal cuts if larger than 1".

Frost

Citrus is a sub-tropical fruit and are sensitive to frost. When it is colder than 40 degrees use a frost blanket. We carry many shapes and sizes. NEVER USE PLASTIC, it will burn your leaves and cause more damage. These blankets are not meant for use, weeks at a time, only a few days. They should be removed daily.

