

# HOME GROUNDS FACT SHEET

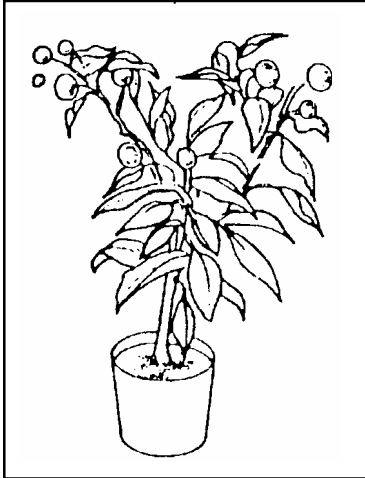
CORNELL Cooperative Extension  
Nassau County



Nassau County  
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## Citrus

Citrus are members of the Rue (Rutaceae) family. These evergreen trees are native to Asia. The plants are best grown in a greenhouse, but with care can be grown in the home. They make ideal tub or container plants.



### Culture

Grow in well-drained soil mixture of two parts sterile soil, one part peat moss and one part sand or vermiculite.

A sun porch or room where there is bright, indirect light and the temperatures are between 65-70°F during the day and 55-60°F at night is best for growing citrus plants.

Water lightly from October to February. Avoid letting the soil dry out completely. Keep the soil surface moist but **not** soggy the rest of the year. Keep outdoors during the summer months; sink the pot into the ground. Bring indoors September 1. (Inspect plants carefully for pests before bringing indoors).

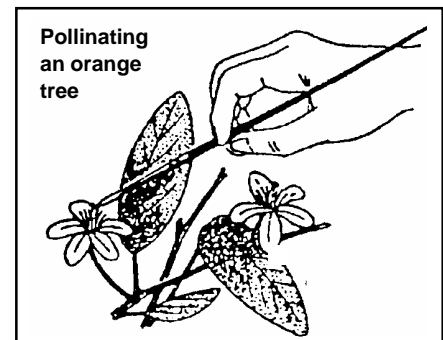
Fertilize once a month with a 20-20-20 water soluble fertilizer. Tops can be pruned back if the plants get too leggy.

Citrus bears less fruit if not hand pollinated; use a small brush or cotton swab to transfer the pollen.

### Propagation

Plants may be propagated from seed obtained from store-bought fruit but will not flower. Propagation is best by cuttings (of dwarfed plants) in a soil mix of either 50% sand and 50% peat moss, or a horticultural vermiculite mix. Take cuttings from new, terminal growth about six inches long. They should fruit in their first year.

If you have any problems, or pest and/or disease exist on citrus, please submit a sample showing good and bad growth to your local Cornell Cooperative Extension office.



### Types of Citrus

1. **Citrus limon 'Ponderosa' - Ponderosa Lemon** - large, white waxy flowers that later produce bright orange-yellow fruit 4-1/2" in diameter. The fruit is not table quality. Take care when handling, this one has spines. Good pot or tub plant.
2. **Citrus Limon 'Meyer' - Meyer Lemon** - fragrant, whitish flowers, lemon-yellow fruit, 3" in diameter. Plant has some thorns. Lemons are of table quality. New plants grow readily from cuttings. Makes a good pot or tub plant.
3. **Citrus mitis 'Calamondin' - Calamondin Orange** - very fragrant white flowers followed by deep orange-red fruit. Fruit is usually 1-1 1/2" in diameter and stays on the plant through the winter. Plant is upright in habit with dense, bright green leaves. This variety is spineless.
4. **Citrus X limonia 'Otaheite' - Otaheite** - Orange-waxy, white flowers that are very fragrant. Bears many small orange to deep yellow fruits, 2" in diameter. Glossy, green dense foliage. Stems have spines. Good tub or pot plants.

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