

CITRUS PLANT CARE

Planting



Location:

Citrus trees should be planted in a location with full sun exposure.



Site:

Plant your citrus tree in a hole that is at least twice the size of the established root ball. Do not set plants any deeper than original soil level in the container. Backfill soil should be amended with a well-composted redwood, or good quality garden compost - no manure. Work in at least 1/3 compost, with 2/3 of your native soil. Above all, your citrus tree requires good draining soil; with heavier soils, add about 1/3 sand to the mixture.

Care



Watering:

Immediately after planting, your tree should be irrigated. Irrigate several times during the first 72 hours to insure that the soil becomes saturated. Following irrigations should be deep and thorough, allowing time for the soil to go slightly dry in between.



Feeding:

Feedings should be done lightly and frequently, approximately every 60 days during the growing season - February through September. Feed with a good commercial brand of citrus and avocado food, available at most retail nurseries. It is also a good idea to leave a ground mulch of well-composted redwood bark, as this provides nutrients to the surface roots of the tree



Pruning:

Citrus trees and shrubs hold a good form on their own. However, if pruning is desired, it should be done in the late spring or early summer. When pruning, remove all dead wood, and open the tree up in the center to allow for light penetration.



Fruit Set: If the tree sets an over-production of fruit, the fruit should be thinned when it reaches about the size of a nickel. This will grow a healthier tree and more fruit in the future.