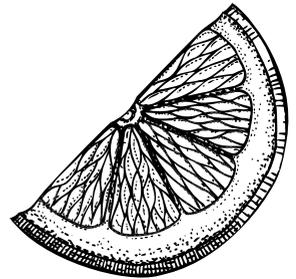
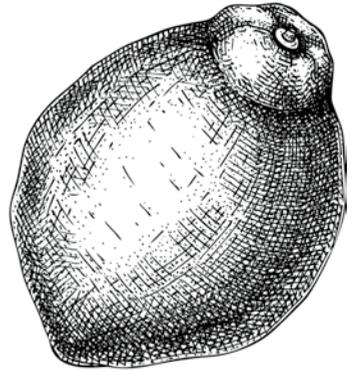


Our helpful guide to
CITRUS



DUCHY of CORNWALL
NURSERY

HOW TO GROW CITRUS

Citrus are not hardy in Britain but can be grown in pots outdoors in summer and brought inside for winter. Of all citrus, most gardeners grow lemons; kumquats are the most cold tolerant; others, like limes and grapefruits, need more warmth.

As well as having both edible and ornamental fruit, they have glossy, dark green leaves and sweetly scented flowers.

The flowers may be borne almost continuously so there is often fruit and flower at the same time. Fruits may take up to a year to mature.

CITRUS VARIETIES

Lemon 'La Valette':

Lemon-lime cross with good flavoured fruit.

Lemon 'Meyer':

Good fruiting variety with white flowers. Compact & hardy.

Lemon 'Four Seasons':

Continuous flowering and good flavoured fruit.

Kumquat 'Nagami':

Miniature oval fruits which can be eaten whole.

Lime 'Tahiti':

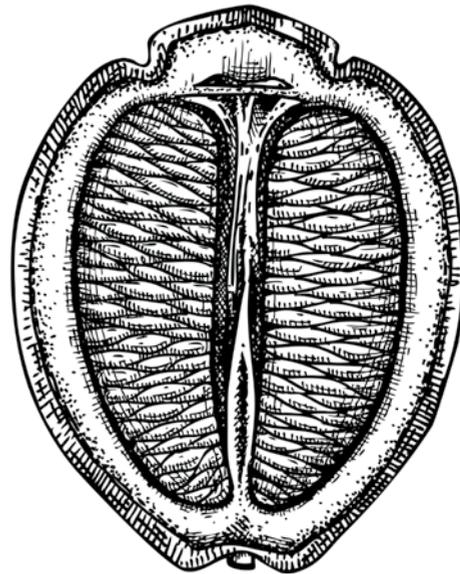
Good flavoured fruit. Easy beginners variety.

Clementine :

Small sharp but sweet fruits

Calamondin (Citrus mitis):

Small, very acid fruits excellent for marmalade. Relatively hardy.



GROW:

– Citrus love sunshine, but in summer this must be combined with good ventilation. Stand them outside in summer (once all the risk of frost has past), or by an open window, misting daily. In winter an unheated, south facing room or conservatory is ideal. Sudden changes in temperature or light levels may cause leaf drop. Low temperatures may result in fruit drop. A minimum winter night temperature of 10°C (50°F) is needed for lemons and limes. Calamondin oranges need a minimum winter night temperature of 13°C (55°F).

Kumquats are unusual citrus, as the fruits are eaten whole – including the skin. Plants are naturally very bushy and highly productive. They can tolerate winter temperatures down to 7°C (45°F) – among the hardiest of all citrus.

Centrally-heated rooms are not ideal for citrus as they are generally too hot, lack humidity and light leading to stress (see below).

Repot plants annually in March, or replace the top 5cm (2in) of old potting media with fresh compost. Use a free draining but moisture retentive loam based mix.

COMMON PROBLEMS

- Mealy Bug
- Glasshouse red spider mite or two spotted mite
- Scale insects

WATERING AND FEEDING:

– Citrus are hungry plants and need regular feeding. Use high nitrogen citrus summer feed from late March to October. In winter switch to winter feed that is specific to citrus.

In summer, water freely – ideally with rainwater. In winter, allow the surface to partially dry out before watering, then water thoroughly with tepid rainwater, allowing excess moisture to drain away. Overwatering in winter is one of the most common problems, so err on the dry side. A period of dry dormancy is necessary to promote flowering.

Indoors, maintain high humidity by standing the pot on a large saucer or tray filled with gravel. Keep the water level just below the surface of the gravel, or group plants together. Hand mist regularly, in winter, to ensure pollination.

PRUNING:

– Pinch growing tips at any time to encourage bushy growth. Further pruning, if required, should be carried out in late winter. Spindly shoots can be shortened by half or more without loss of fruiting.





Ask the nursery team for lots more handy hints and information.



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