

## Citrus Care – Fact Sheet

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### **Planting**

- Dig hole twice size of pot
- Incorporate well- rotted organic matter or purchased compost into existing soil. (Optional - Add Rock Dust at recommended rates to improve nutrient holding capacity of soil)
- Plant to a depth no greater than level with the surface of potting soil. If planting into heavy clay leave the 10-15mm of potting soil above ground level and mulch well.
- Mulch well with at least 50mm mulch
- Apply Liquid Soil Conditioner at recommended rates
- Water in well and keep moist not wet for four – six weeks depending on weather

### **Pots**

- Use premium potting mix.
- If keeping the citrus in same pot forever, replace potting mix every 2-3 years and prune back root by  $\frac{1}{4}$  before replanting citrus back into pot.
- After planting apply soil conditioner
- Apply compost but ensure trunk of tree is not covered in compost /soil
- Don't grow anything else in pot no matter how small. Citrus hate competition even from succulents or small groundcovers.
- In summer place pot saucer under pot and water well but allow saucer to dry out completely between waterings.

### **Fertiliser**

- At planting apply liquid soil conditioner
- In autumn and Spring apply a six month controlled release fertiliser that is specially made for Citrus. This will contain extra Trace Elements to stop the leaves from turning yellow. Follow rates on pack.
- Quarterly top up with a soil conditioner
- If your citrus needs a bit of a kick along, apply two tablespoons of urea followed by trace element mix (follow instructions on pack ) around dripline and water in well and keep it well watered for three – four weeks.

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## Do's

- Protect from cold wind and frost ; plant or locate pot in protected spot against a warm wall
- Check plants weekly for gall wasp infestation; if infected remove branch with gall and dispose in sealed bag in rubbish ( See separate Gall Wasp Fact Sheet)
- Ensure all galls removed by early August
- In extreme cases of Gall infestation and if Gall Wasps is a major problem in your area consider applying kaolinite clay in early September to discourage gall wasp activity on your citrus ( Product name: SURROUND; Available only from agricultural suppliers)
- Apply Eco-Neem or equivalent as a Spray every four weeks during growing season to control Citrus Leaf miner and other chewing insect pests.

## Don'ts

- Grow anything within 0.7m metre from base of tree. Citrus hate competition and are surface rooted.
- Allow plant to get too drought affected, particularly during fruit set, often seen as small fruit yellowing and dropping off
- Don't over water!- Allow plant to dry out between waterings.

## Product: Examples Only

- Osmocote® Plus Trace Elements: Fruit, **Citrus**, Trees & Shrubs
- Scotts© Pure Organic™ Fruit & **Citrus** Plant Food
- Seasol Soil Conditioner, Munash Renew, Scotts Pure Organic Seaweed Liquid Plant Food; Eco Seaweed.
- Rock Dust – Munash
- Compost – Scotts Pure Organic Compost; Munash Revitalize Compost
- Iron Chelate- Yates Leaf Greener
- Yates Health Trace Element Chelates
- Eco-Neem Supplied by Organic Crop Protectants; Eco Oil
- Eco Seaweed

## DIY WHITE OIL RECIPE

In a glass container with a screw top lid add:

- Two cups sunflower oil
- Half cup dishwashing liquid
- Shake well. This then becomes your white oil concentrate

To use this white oil concentrate; in a labelled spray bottle add :

- one tablespoon of white oil per litre of water; i.e. a 2 litre sprayer filled with water requires 2 tablespoons of white oil concentrate. Apply every 2-4 weeks. **Caution:** Do not spray on days over 28 degrees or if there is a likelihood of days over 30 degrees after spraying. This DIY insecticide works by smothering the insect

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