



The Backyard Orchard – Citrus – Module 2.1 – Growing Citrus in Containers



LSU AgCenter Backyard Orchard Certificate
Course

Dr. Raj Singh, Dr. Ed Bush, Dr. Kiki Fontenot, Dr. Joe Willis, Anna Timmerman &
Chris Dunaway



MOST HARDY

*Kumquat
Calamondin
*Satsuma
Mandarin
Tangerine
Tangelo
*Sweet Orange
Pommelo
*Grapefruit
*Lemon
*Lime

LEAST HARDY

Selecting a Tree at the Nursery

- Look for a plant with a nice long straight trunk
- Caution – young trees may have thorns, especially grapefruit & lemon. They will disappear as the tree ages.
- Remove all fruit from the tree the first 1-2 years. This allows the tree to develop a strong root system and top.
- Strong plants are better able to resist diseases, insects and tolerate stress.
- Identify the graft union prior to planting

Pot Selection & Prep

- Select a pot at least 3 times the size of the original container
- Eventually, you'll need a 15-20 gallon container
- Citrus need good drainage. Make drainage holes in your container if none are present. DO NOT block your drainage holes.

Planting the Citrus Tree

- Choose a good, high-quality mix – raised bed mixes are good
- Fill pot bottom so that the plant will rest about 1” below the top of the pot.
- Remove the plant from the pot, check the roots and detangle them with your hand or a garden rake.
- Place the plant in the pot and fill in around the plant to the top level of the root ball. DO NOT pile soil upward on the trunk.
- Firm the soil gently around the root ball.

After Planting Management

- Water the plant thoroughly after planting
- Citrus trees in containers need to be watered thoroughly 3 times per week during the growing season.
- Feed your citrus tree with a liquid fertilizer every month or so according to label directions during the growing season. Cease fertilizing in September.
- A slow release fertilizer is also a good option – follow label instructions.

Keep Container Citrus Mobile

- Place your containerized citrus tree on a rolling plant dolly
- This allows you to move your plant to a location to receive optimum sunlight
- Makes it easier to move your containerized citrus to a protected area or inside if freezing temperatures are a threat.



Please post all your questions and results to the message board that was emailed to you.

