

Growing Citrus Indoors

Surprisingly easy to grow, several varieties of citrus can fill your indoor rooms with glossy green foliage, sweet-smelling flowers and tasty fruit.

Choosing Plants

Though many citrus are easily started from seed, it can take several years for plants to flower and fruit. Start with mature potted plants for best success. Choose dwarf citrus suitable for indoor growing - here are some great choices:



Meyer Lemon

The attractive foliage and fruit of Meyer lemon makes it a great indoor choice. Requires a sunny spot and consistent humidity.

Variegated Pink Lemon

Distinctive green and yellow variegated foliage. Lemons have pink flesh with a clear juice. Fuchsia colored new growth and flower buds.



Buddha's Hand Citron

Fruit forms finger-like sections resembling a human hand. It is much esteemed for its delicate lemon fragrance in China and Japan. Fruit has virtually no pulp, but can be sliced and candied in syrup.

Mexican Key Lime

The longest known and most widely cultivated worldwide. A great variety for growing indoors, Key Lime produces genuine tropical flavour.



Bearss Seedless Lime (Tahitian)

This seedless selection is suited for growing indoors and boasts glossy green leaves with large fruit.

Australian Finger Lime

This somewhat thorny, tiny leafed relative of citrus produces fruit that is tart and juicy. Sometimes called "citrus caviar", fruit flavor is reminiscent of Mexican lime.



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Calamondin Orange

The easiest citrus to grow indoors. Even in lower light conditions, plants will flower and produce attractive and aromatic oranges.

Valencia Orange

This popular summer-ripening variety is also a great choice for indoors. Perfect for juice or eating fresh.



Midnight Valencia Orange

This improved Valencia is named after its founder Mr. A.P Knight. It produces larger, sweeter fruit.



Oroblanco Grapefruit

In Israel, known as "Sweetie". Produces sweet, seedless fruit even in areas of low summer heat. Huge, intensely fragrant flowers and attractive glossy foliage.

Fukushu Kumquat

Like other kumquats, the Fukushu is a naturally small tree, well-suited for growing indoors. Fukushu fruits ripen to edible, with thinner rinds and fewer seeds than other types.



Gold Nugget Mandarin

Fruit is seedless, richly flavored and easy to peel. Unlike many other mandarins, fruit holds well on the tree through summer.

Hass Avocado

A unique specimen to try indoors. Excellent flavor and oil content. Green fruit turns black when ripe, with its recognizable pebbly skin.

Fruit size 10-12 oz. Avocado plants tend to be larger than citrus so will require trimming indoors or spaces with high ceilings.



Zutano Avocado

A unique specimen to try indoors. Green fruit, medium-thin skin. Fruit size 10-12 oz. Ripens November - January. Avocado plants tend to be larger than Citrus so will require trimming indoors or spaces with high ceilings.



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CARING FOR YOUR CITRUS

Citrus trees can be grown easily indoors! Key elements for success are good light, adequate humidity, well-drained potting soil, additional nutrients, and consistent watering.

Light

Citrus require 8-12 hours of sunlight each day to be healthy and productive. A south or southwest facing window with unobstructed light is generally ideal. Citrus trees do not go dormant in winter and will tolerate slightly lower light conditions during this period of slower growth. If the space has less than 5 hours per day of direct, full sun, you may require additional lighting such as Grow Bulbs.

Fertilizer

Since citrus trees are heavy nitrogen feeders, make sure your fertilizer contains more nitrogen (N) than phosphorous (P) and potassium (K) such as Miracle Gro 24-8-16. Avoid fertilizing from September to January indoors, but once light levels increase in February you can fertilize once every two weeks. If placing plants outdoors in the summer, plants should be fertilized until the end of August.

Water

Water as needed to keep soil moist, not soggy. Generally 1/4 - 1/2 gallon of water every 5-7 days indoors is adequate. Be sure the bottom of the pot is elevated above standing drainage water. A moisture tester can be an excellent tool to help determine when roots are in need of a drink.

Humidity

In winter months, heated rooms may need additional humidity. Placing the pot on pebbles in a saucer will elevate the tree above the drainage area, and improve air flow and humidity for citrus. Misting citrus foliage with a simple spray bottle is another way to help citrus cope with insufficient indoor humidity in winter.



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