



# Growing Great Citrus

Whether you love fresh grapefruit or a delicious glass of orange juice with breakfast, every yard has a spot for at least one citrus tree. They grow well in our area, just follow these tips to keep them in top shape.



## Planting

- Select an area in full sun.
- Make sure that the soil is well-drained and that the area never sits wet.
- Use plenty of **Black Gold**<sup>®</sup> soil when planting to get trees off to a good start.
- For an extra boost, add the appropriate amount of **Espoma Organic**<sup>®</sup> **Bio-tone**<sup>®</sup> **Starter Plus**. It is both a fertilizer for new roots and a source of mycorrhizal fungi and beneficial bacteria that improve soil health and create a sturdy root system.<sup>1</sup>

## Watering

- Many problems, such as fruit split, fruit drop, and fruit drying are caused by poor watering practices.
- Always water in the morning.
- New trees need water daily for the first month, every other day for the second month, and twice weekly in the third month.
- Thereafter, make sure the tree gets at least an inch of water across the entire root system once per week. You may have to get a hose out during dry spells.

## Fertilizer

- Keep trees strong by feeding them the major and minor nutrients that they need.
- Fertilize monthly for the first year with **The Kerby's Special** fertilizer.
- Thereafter, fertilize three times per year (one time each in spring, summer, and fall).

## Disease and Insect Control

- Early detection and preventative treatment are key.
- For disease problems, spray three times a year with Liquid Copper Fungicide. This will prevent and treat greasy spot, scab, and alternaria spot.
- Bugs love the sweet smell of citrus and the tasty young leaves. Use Neem Oil or Captain Jack's<sup>™</sup> Deadbug Brew weekly in the spring season (especially when it is dry and the new blooms are out) to control insects.

<sup>1</sup>[Espoma | Espoma Organic Biotone Starter Plus Organic Fertilizer | Espoma](#)