



Online Plants NT

Caring for your fruit Tree

When Planting

When first planting your citrus fruit tree try and find a sunny spot in your garden that will get lots of sunlight, especially afternoon sunlight. Fertilise your fruit tree around the base use a fruit and flower fertiliser containing trace elements. Mulch around your fruit tree, do not place the mulch against the tree bark.

Pruning your fruit trees

Citrus fruit trees are unlike many other fruit trees in that they don't need a lot of pruning to produce a lot of fruit. They can be happily left for many years and not be pruned will still produce an abundance of fruit.

Your citrus tree can be pruned to whatever shape you desire. Here in Darwin it's best to prune citrus once they are finished fruiting, removing some inner older branches and to encourage good air flow throughout the tree, this will also help reduce the risk of fungal diseases. You don't want to be pruning in the wet season as this will increase the chance of fungal infection into the tree.

Fertilising your Fruit trees

As Citrus fruit trees are high feeders and love lots of fertiliser. We recommend feeding three to four times a year and again after giving your citrus tree a good prune. There are many different commercial citrus fertilisers on the market, try and get one which has trace elements.

Water your citrus tree well; remove any mulch from around the tree before you fertilise. Spread the fertiliser evenly around the soil underneath the canopy, but not directly against the trunk. The amount varies, depending on which fertiliser you choose. Water in the fertiliser well and then replace the mulch. Mulching around the tree is important for the soil to retain moisture and in turn helping keep the citrus tree cool and irrigated.

Citrus fruit trees in pots and tubs also require regular feeding. Fertilise at least three to four times per year. Put a light covering over the entire surface of the pot or tub and water in.

Some Common Problems with citrus fruit trees in the NT.

- Not Flowering;

This usually occurs if your fruit tree isn't getting enough Sunlight, not enough nutrients or not enough water. A point also to note is if there isn't enough pollinators in the area where the tree is planted the flowers may not get pollinated and in turn not produce fruit.

- Leaf Miner

A common citrus pest here in Darwin, signs are usually a curling of the leaf and white swiggle lines throughout the leave. Easily treated with a pest oil, Please remember to use Organic treatments when spraying your fruit tree.

- Sooty mould

A common fungal disease here in Darwin, signs are as the name suggested a black sooty mould on the leaf this usually happens in the wet season and can also be easily treated by a home remedy fungicide or a commercial organic one. Usually caused by too much moisture.