

Easy Tree Care Guide for Garden Citrus Trees



Planting love. Growing memories.



SEASON	TASKS	CHEAT SHEET
<p>Winter:</p> <p>Water as needed</p> <p>Fertilize</p> <p>Pick ripe fruit</p>	<p>Be sure tree receives regular water. If winter rains are not sufficient, supplement with a deep watering every week, depending on soil. Clay-ey soils retain water and need less, sandy soils drain quickly and require more. Be sure soil drains well - wet roots will kill the tree by depriving it of oxygen. Use high quality fertilizer and apply monthly per package directions, except when tree is blooming or setting fruit [okay to fertilize when fruit reaches gumball size] Keep a 3-4" layer of organic mulch under tree, starting 6" away from the trunk. Keep grass away -it will compete for nutrients .</p>	<p>HERE'S THE SHORT VERSION:</p> <p>(1) Water Weekly - 1x, 2x or more as needed. Get this part right and the tree will be happy</p> <p>(2) Fertilize Monthly</p> <p>(3) Prune, check for pests, add worm castings occasionally</p>
<p>Spring:</p> <p>Water as needed</p> <p>Fertilize after fruit is set</p> <p>Pick Ripe Fruit</p> <p>Prune if Needed</p>	<p>Continue to fertilize monthly. Watch for pests, especially snails, leafminer and whitefly. Monterey GreenLight is effective for the ubiquitous leafminer. Add a layer of worm castings to the mulch to discourage insects and supplement the soil's nutrients. Adopt a consistent watering schedule and adjust when necessary for weather events such as Santa Anas or exceptionally cool, rainy periods. As tree matures, it's good to prune out a few branches to allow better air circulation and sun to reach the middle branches.</p>	
<p>Summer:</p> <p>Water</p> <p>Fertilize</p> <p>Check for pests</p>	<p>Adjust the watering schedule to meet the needs of the warm weather. Newly planted trees will need more water (more often, that is) as their root systems develop and they grow leafier. A long slow soaking is important so the roots grow deep. Water should penetrate the soil to a depth of about 2 feet. Established trees will need water less frequently, but still need the long slow soaking. Continue the monthly fertilizing. If needed, prune branches that brush the ground to keep ants away.</p>	
<p>Autumn:</p> <p>Clean up</p> <p>Fertilize</p>	<p>Maintain good hygiene by cleaning up leaves and debris. This makes it less hospitable for pests to proliferate. Water less often as weather cools - if winter rains become regular, you may not need additional water. Now is a good time to replenish the worm castings.</p>	
<p>More Resources</p>	<p>UC Davis & UC Master Gardener info</p>	<p>www.homeorchard.ucdavis.edu</p>
<p>IMPORTANT NOTE</p>	<p>Online tree care advice is often intended for commercial growers or well-established trees . It may not be appropriate for newly planted or young trees. If you</p>	<p>www.TheWishingTreeCompany.com 760.753.1760</p>