



CITRUS CARE SHEET

for

OWARI SATSUMA MANDARIN

and

TROVITA ORANGE

Site Selection

Most citrus are adapted to warmer, tropical or subtropical climates. Choose a site with well-drained soil that receives full sun most of the day and is protected from strong winds. If the location is too cool, the fruit quality will be poor with little sugar production in the fruit.

The **Trovita Orange** and the **Owari Satsuma Mandarin** are known for their ability to produce sweet, flavorful fruit in our mild climate, but the more sun, the better—all year round, if possible, but at the very least during spring and summer.

Try not to plant your tree next to a fence or wall where snails or ants can easily invade; snails will take up permanent residence and ants will farm scale insects that can do real damage over time. Rats and squirrels will also have easy “drive-by” access to your fruit—and they have no qualms about eating citrus when other tree fruits are scarce.

Do not plant citrus in a lawn or with other plants that require frequent irrigation.

Do not plant your citrus tree in an area of your yard that has lost a tree or shrub (especially a rose or a camellia). And *especially* if a clump of small, round, honey-colored mushrooms cropped up at the base of the tree or bush before it was taken out, or if you know that your yard has played host to Oak Root fungus (*Armillaria mellea*) or other root rots or nematodes.

Watering

Watering correctly is critical to the development of good quality fruit and allows trees to preserve a natural resistance to fungal diseases.

The root zone of citrus trees is shallow. Water near the trunk of your newly planted tree to keep the root ball moist until roots grow into the native soil. Apply water further from the tree trunk as trees become established.

During the heat of summer, your citrus tree will require about 4 to 6 inches of water per month. However, depending upon your soil type, this amount may be divided up into several applications. Allow soil to dry partially before watering. Then irrigate to wet soil at least 2 feet deep.

Trees may need irrigation about every 7 to 14 days during the summer, depending on soil type and weather conditions.

Watering, continued

Don't plant ferns, annual flowers, or plants that need lots of water around trees. Be sure to keep the trunk dry.

Underwatering produces fruit that is small, and fruit will tend to sunburn. Overwatering predisposes the tree to root and crown rots. Leaves on plants that have been over-watered become yellow and drop.

Pruning and Thinning

Young citrus will not require extensive pruning, and in the long run is not required to keep citrus productive or attractive. You tree may produce a few vigorous shoots with thorns that give the tree a wild appearance. Prune these back a bit to give a more refined appearance. Be sure to prune off any suckers that arise below the graft or bud union. Try to keep the center somewhat open by removing crossing branches.

If you do prune, the ideal time is just prior to bloom or just after fruit set so that the tree can adjust its fruit load during the June drop. Minor pruning can be done at any time, but avoid late-season pruning, which can stimulate excessive tender growth that is likely to be injured by frost.

Fruit thinning is not usually required. After petal fall, the young fruit undergo rapid cell division. It is not uncommon for many small pea-sized fruit to drop about 1 month after bloom. Later in spring and early summer, larger golf ball-size fruit may drop if conditions that limit growth such as excess heat, lack of soil moisture, or adverse weather exist.

Fertilizing

Maintaining a good fertilizing program can help preserve a tree's natural resistance to fungal diseases such as oak root fungus. Be careful not to over-fertilize as this will cause excessive new growth, which makes trees susceptible to other disorders such as bacterial blast.

Apply a good-quality Citrus fertilizer 3 times a year, around Valentine's Day, Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Citrus occasionally suffers from micronutrient deficiencies such as zinc or iron. These deficiencies can be corrected by applying a foliar application of a liquid chelated micronutrient solution as the new growth emerges in the spring. You can also apply micronutrients in the sulfated form, such as zinc sulfate or iron sulfate, to the soil.

Excessive fertilizing leads to dark green, lush leaves with burned tips. Underfertilizing may cause leaves to become yellowed, spotted, or streaked.

Avoid using fertilizer stakes, as they might burn roots, even to the point of killing an immature tree.

References:

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<http://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/7349856/list/how-to-keep-your-citrus-trees-well-fed-and-healthy>