

Indoor Citrus

General Information:

Although citrus plants are not winter hardy here, some species can be grown successfully as indoor foliage plants and, given the right growing conditions, can even produce fruit! Some of the citrus types best adapted to indoor culture include Ponderosa lemon, Otaheite orange, Meyer lemon, Persian lime and Calamondin orange.

Light:

Citrus foliage can adapt somewhat to the light levels typical of our homes. However, if flowers and fruit are what you're after, you'll need to give the plants as much sun as possible. If natural sunlight is inadequate, you can supplement with grow lights.

Humidity:

Relative humidity is generally all right in the typical home, but not during the winter heating season. A humidifier will increase both plant and people comfort. Pebble trays with water evaporation from the surface also can be helpful. Hand misting is generally ineffective at raising relative humidity, though it can help wash dust off the foliage.

Soil:

A good quality, well-draining, potting soil mix

Water:

The plant should be watered thoroughly at intervals that allow the soil to dry just a little between thorough waterings.

Fertilizer:

30-10-10 Miracid is good. Use the recommendation for potted plants on the package. Apply every 5-6 weeks during spring and summer, every 8 weeks during fall and winter.

Citrus flowering is dependent on the particular species of plant, as well as environmental conditions. Generally, best success with flowering is achieved by moving the plant outdoors to a protected, partially sunny location after all danger of frost is past. Similarly, the plant will need to be brought back indoors at the end of summer, before temperatures dip below 50 F. However, unless the plants are gradually exposed to these drastic changes of environment, they will often respond by dropping many leaves and, possibly, flowers and young fruit. 2-5 hours of sun indoors will help correct the dropping problem when bringing plant indoors in late summer.