

## ***Green Thumb Nursery***

Caring for Citrus and Fruit Trees

***Fertilize spring, summer, and fall with Fertlome Fruit, Citrus and Pecan Food.***

Young trees up to 4 years old should be fertilized four to six times per year from January through October. Apply 1 pound of fertilizer per year of tree age per application. For mature trees, apply fertilizer 3 times per year in January-February, May-June, and October-November. Apply 1 pound per year of tree age up to a maximum of 10 pounds.



Newly planted citrus and fruit trees should be watered at planting and every other day for the first week, then 1 to 2 times a week for the first couple of months. During prolonged dry periods (5 or more days with little or no rain) newly planted and young trees should be watered once a week. Mature citrus trees prefer deep watering sessions compared to shallow and frequent watering. You are not just watering the root ball -- mature trees need watering out to their canopy drip line and slightly farther out to saturate all the spreading roots.

Apply a nutritional spray twice per year. Use it as a pre-bloom application in January or February and perhaps add Malathion oil at the prescribed rate to the mixture for insect control. After the bloom petals have fallen off in March or April, apply a post-bloom application. We recommend as each new flush of growth appears throughout the season that you inspect the new growth and if aphids are detected, you spray them with Malathion Oil. For best results it is essential that all limbs and foliage be thoroughly sprayed especially the underside of the leaves. *Caution:* Never apply any spray to a tree that is in drought stress. Water thoroughly and apply spray the following day. Chewing insects that eat the plant tissue are best controlled with a biological insecticide like Spinosad that the pest takes into their stomach. Fungal infections can cause the tree leaves to turn yellow or have yellow spots. We sell different types of fungicides to control these infections either topically or through the plant root system. We can assist you in diagnosing any problems with your plant if you bring in a sample branch.



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