



Citrus Pruning

- **Citrus trees require minimal pruning.** The fruit quality from a minimally pruned tree is typically much better than one from a heavily pruned tree.
- Citrus are evergreen trees and should not be skirted (removing lower foliage).
- By allowing citrus trees to grow naturally and more like a large shrub, they will protect themselves against harmful sun damage on the bark.
- Do not use oil-based paint on the trunk to prevent burning. The long-term results can be very harmful.

- **When to prune**

Best time to prune is in the Spring after the last frost date.

- Late Feb - early April before or during the beginning of blooming.

- **What to prune**

Always clean and sharpen tools before beginning.

- 1st - remove all suckers (water sprouts) from below and on the graft union.
- 2nd - remove all crossing, dead, diseased and damaged branches.
- 3rd- hedging for size control and aesthetics.

- **Watering**

<i>Seasonal evaporation chart</i>												
Citrus Tree Water Requirments in Gallons per Week												
Canopy Spread (ft.)	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	1	1	2	2	3	4	4	4	3	2	1	1
4	2	3	6	9	11	15	17	15	13	7	3	2
6	5	7	15	21	25	33	38	36	27	16	7	5
8	8	13	26	37	46	59	67	63	49	29	13	8
10	13	19	40	57	71	92	106	98	77	45	19	13
12	19	27	58	83	102	132	152	141	111	64	27	19
14	26	38	79	113	139	180	207	193	151	88	38	26

- **Feeding**

- After pruning, spray with compost tea to strengthen and stimulate new healthy growth and blooms.
- Feed with worm castings & compost and top with mulch around the drip line on or around Valentine's Day, Memorial Day, and Labor Day.
- BSFL Nutrient + is another option to increase blooming and overall health of trees.

- **Harvesting**

- All fruit should be harvested by mid April at the latest to allow proper fruit development for the new season.

- **Common Diseases and Insects**

- Phytophthora - is a harmful fungus that can destroy the roots and lower part of the tree. Caused by overwatering.
- Thrip, scale and leaf miners are the most common pests and cause the most damage. Keeping trees healthy and providing protection by planting natural companion plants is always the best method for pest control.
- Regular monitoring of your trees is always important to prevent severe damage.