

# KEY LIME TREE



**1 Gallon**

**1 Year**

**18 - 26 IN**

**\$52.95**

## Description

The Key Lime Tree is bushy and has spindling branches that has short to medium length thorns. Key Lime Trees produce small white flowers that emit a spectacular aromatic scent that can last an entire season. This lime tree fruit has an invigorating blend of acidity and sweetness that is unlike any other lime.

Growing **citrus trees** comes with many benefits. Citrus trees are easy to grow, produce a pleasant, fresh fragrance, and the fruit can be used for cooking, mixing drinks, baking and even cleaning. All of these benefits can be said for the **Key Lime tree**, which is also known as the **Key Lime tree**.

The **Key Lime Tree** is native to the small islands on the southern tip of eastern Florida. **Key Lime trees** are relatively small and seldom reach 12 ft. in height. This hardy **citrus tree** is naturally resistant to pests and diseases and can adapt to many types of soil. It is bushy and has spindling branches that has short to medium length thorns. **Key Lime Trees** produce small white flowers that emit a spectacular aromatic scent that can last a whole season through.

Another notable aspect of this type of **lime trees** is that they are self-pollinating; meaning you only need one tree for it to bear fruits. All you have to do is take one flower from your tree and swab it over the other blooms and pollination process is already underway.

**Key Lime tree** – including the **dwarf key lime tree** – produces small, just about 1 ½ to 2 inches in diameter, and round to oblong fruit that has an invigorating blend of acidity and sweetness that is unique and unlike any other lime in the world. The rind of Key Lime is thin and smooth, and the color is deep green when unripe that turns to pale green when ready to be harvested. The lime also has 10 to 15 seeds.

## Citrus Tree Care

When buying a **Key Lime tree**, it is important that you know how to properly care for it. To get a new lime tree blooming and bearing fruit in no time, check out the tree care tips we have prepared below:

- In-ground or container grown regular sized and dwarf lime trees flourish in the sun and should be planted against a south facing wall where it can get 8 hours of direct sun; doing so would not only give your citrus trees their much needed sunlight, it would also protect them from the cold northern winds.
- Over or under watering can damage your lime lemon trees; if you let the soil dry out the leaves will wither and drop off; if you overwater the leaves will turn yellow and start cupping. A good watering technique is to deeply water your citrus trees until the water has penetrated the root system and make sure to allow the top 2-3 inches of the soil to completely dry out before watering again. Cut down on watering before winter arrives to prevent any growth that may become damaged in colder temperatures.

For potted **dwarf lime tree**, stick your index finger into the soil down to about 2 knuckles. If the tip of your finger is still wet, hold off on watering until the time the soil feels dry at that depth.

- To retain moisture and stave off weeds from growing, place a 2-4 inch layer of mulch over the soil. However, keep the mulch 2 inches away from the bark of the **lime tree** to prevent diseases.
- Pruning a **lime tree** is imperative for it to grow healthy. Watch out for any suckers that grow below the graft union tree (they steal away or suck out nutrients from the main trunk of the tree). Prune these suckers away. Doing so will help to maintain the shape of the tree and bolster fruit production. You can also snip the thorns off the branches to avoid getting scratches when picking fruits; removing the thorns won't harm your tree.

Remove dead wood and crossing limbs to properly ventilate the tree and allow sunlight to flow between branches.

- **Key Lime trees** love temperatures over 50°F and grow best outside in US hardiness zones 8 through 11; can survive USDA zone 4 when potted and brought indoor during winter or when the temperature drop to 40°F. When taken inside, the best location for your potted **lime tree** is a sunny window facing south. If planted in ground, the best way to protect your **Key lime tree** is to string holiday lights in the canopy and cover the tree with a blanket throughout the cold weather.
- Like other **citrus trees**, **lime trees** are heavy feeders and should be fertilized every few months. Feed your tree with citrus fertilizer containing extra nitrogen during spring and summer once every six weeks. Scratch into the top few inches of soil and water the granulated fertilizer for **citrus trees** into the ground. This will help replenish the nutrients in the soil ensuring your trees' healthy growth cycle. For fall and winter season, cut back to fertilizing once every 2-3 months.
- **Key lime trees** are self-pollinating but if you only have one tree and it is potted indoors or the yield is meager, you can hand-pollinate the limes by removing one flower and gently wiping it over the other blooms.

## FAQs

### How long does a lime tree live for?

The average lifespan of a citrus tree is approximately 50 years. This age applies to both standard size and dwarf citrus. Trees begin producing fruit sometime during their second through fifth growing season, and continue to produce fruit throughout their lifespan.

### Is it normal for a Key Lime Tree in a pot to drop leaves when you move it inside?

Yes, this is one of the main reasons a tree might drop leaves. Key Lime trees can lose leaves for a few reasons. Stress of transport, moving a potted tree from outdoors to in (or indoors to outside), heavy fruit production and subsequent harvest, cold weather, and overwatering are all possible causes of leaves dropping. Leaves may also drop due to spider mites, fungus, canker, and other diseases. If your tree is disease and pest free, and has not been overwatered, leaves dropping is most likely a natural mechanism and fallen leaves will regrow.

### **If I am planning to grow a Key Lime Tree in a pot, what kind of soil should I use?**

Key Lime Trees do best in a sandy loam soil that drains well. A suitable mixture would be 3 parts bagged potting mix, one-part perlite, one-part composted manure (such as composted cow or chicken manure), and one-part clean sand.

### **I have heard that the Key Lime is a bush. Is it a bush or a tree?**

The Key Lime is a tree, but a bushy tree. They grow to about 15 feet tall and 15 feet wide or larger. They have many smaller branches, which lends a shrubby or bushy appearance.

### **My Key Lime Tree blooms, but the fruit falls off. Why is that?**

Growing citrus fruit can fall off for a number of reasons. Young trees may not have the resources (roots, leaves, and trunk size) to support numerous fruit, so fruit falling from young trees is a normal part of the growing cycle. Also, some pests and fungi may cause premature fruit drop. Even when a tree is mature and healthy, it is not uncommon for some fruit to fall away in the course of a growing season.

### **Is the Key Lime a thorn less tree?**

No the Key Lime Citrus Tree is not thorn less.

### **Is a Key Lime Tree self-pollinating?**

Yes, Key Lime Trees are self-pollinating. They will grow fruit with no additional pollinator. But two trees grown together will usually produce more fruit than a lone tree.