

# MEYER LEMON TREE



1 Gallon	1 Year	10-18 In	\$50.95
3 Gallon	1 Year	10-18 In	\$74.95

## Description

The Meyer Improved Lemon Tree is a hybrid between a common lemon tree and a mandarin orange tree. This lemon tree variety has a spreading habit and is nearly thorn less. The fragrant blooms of this lemon tree then turn to medium-sized, orange-yellow, juicy sweet-tart lemons that are in season in fall/spring.

Citrus x Meyer or commonly called the **Meyer Lemon tree** is a gorgeous evergreen **citrus tree** originally from China that is a hybrid between a common **lemon tree** and a **mandarin orange tree**. It was first discovered and sent to the United States in 1908 by Dutch horticulturist and botanist Frank Meyer who was working for the United States Department of Agriculture.

Unfortunately, the original **Meyer Lemon Trees** were found to be susceptible to a devastating virus called Citrus Tristeza and eventually became symptomless carriers of the said virus, which infected and killed millions of **citrus trees** across the United States and all over the world. Because of this, most **Meyer lemon trees** have to be destroyed. A surviving and virus-free **Meyer lemon tree** was then discovered by Don Dillon in 1950 and was later certified and released by the University of California as the “**Improved Meyer Lemon Tree**” in 1975.

The **Improved Meyer Lemon Tree** is cold hardy and best grows in US Department of Agriculture **USDA hardiness zones 8 to 11**. It is fairly vigorous, shrubby and somewhat small in size upon reaching maturity – standard **Meyer lemon trees** can grow as tall as 6’ to 10’ while the **dwarf lemon tree** can grow up to 4’ to 6’ in height.

This **lemon tree** variety has a spreading habit and is nearly thorn less making it a great **citrus tree** to plant if you have kids, be it indoors or outdoors. This **citrus tree** blooms purple-tinted flowers all year round but blooms are more concentrated in spring or fall. The fragrant blooms then turn to medium-sized, orange-yellow, juicy sweet-tart lemons that are in season in fall/spring.

# Citrus Tree Care

**Dwarf citrus trees** and standard-sized **citrus trees** need almost the same type and amount of care.

- **Planting Location – Citrus trees** are generally hardy but grow best in warm, sunny spots that have well-draining soil. **Meyer Lemon Trees** are best grown in **USDA plant hardiness zone 8 through 11**. In colder areas, it is advisable that you plant **lemon trees** next to your house or under an eave to get frost protection or plant them in a container, especially the dwarf citrus tree, since they are well adapted to container growing.
- **Watering –** Once your newly bought **citrus trees** arrive, you need to replant them either on the ground or in bigger pots. Newly replanted **Improved Meyer lemon trees** should be watered deeply every 2 to 3 days for the first two weeks. Keep in mind that growing citrus trees like moisture but not wet feet. Once the **citrus trees** are established, you can cut back on watering to once every 7-10 days. Also, allow the soil to get dry between watering to avoid **lemon trees** standing in water.
- **Pruning –Citrus trees** seldom need elaborate trimming or pruning, however, if you wish to maintain the shape of your **Meyer lemon tree** you may want to clip off branches that are too long a year after replanting or once the trees have reached the height of 3' to 4'. To keep it healthy, prune leggy, damaged, diseased and dead branches back to the base of the trunk in late winter to avoid any disruption of the winter harvest or as you deem needed. You should also keep an eye out for suckers growing at the base of the tree as they would only compete for water and nutrients your tree needs in order to grow, establish, and bear fruit.
- **Fertilization –Meyer lemon trees** and other **growing citrus trees** need **citrus fertilizer** to grow healthy and become prolific fruit bearers. They should be fed ammonium sulfate **fertilizer for citrus trees** balanced to 21-0-0. A cup of **citrus tree fertilizer** is a must for the first year, should be broken down into four equal parts, and applied between February to August to ensure the **lemon tree's** healthy growth cycle. It should be mixed with water then poured under the canopy of the tree where it can be absorbed by the roots. Follow the package instructions and do not overfeed to avoid burning the root and harming the tree.
- **Pollination Assistance –Improved Meyer Lemon Trees** are self-fruitful or “self-pollinators” and do not need other **citrus trees** or a second **Meyer Lemon tree** to pollinate and bear fruits. Planted outdoors, bees undertake **lemon tree** pollination by buzzing from flower to flower, but if planted inside the house or greenhouse you need to help your tree by manually pollinating it by hand. To pollinate by hand, use a small paintbrush and touch the tip of the brush to the center of the flower to collect the ripe pollen. Go to the next flower and touch the center using the tip of the same brush to transfer the collected pollen and repeat the process for the rest of the flowers.

# FAQs

## **Is it true that I should cut off the branches that have thorns?**

No. There is no reason to cut off branches because they have thorns. You can prune away some of the actual larger thorns if you wish, by using sharp side-cut hand pruners. The branches with thorns also produce valuable leaves and eventually fruit. Thorns are a normal part of the growing process for a healthy lemon tree. Thorns are a lemon tree's natural defense against climbing pests.

## **Are your Improved Meyer Lemon Trees organically grown and shipped?**

All of our Improved Meyer Lemon trees are Non-GMO. To prevent the spread of destructive insects between states and regions, and to comply with strict USDA plant shipping regulations, we are required to apply a mild chemical treatment to all trees shipped over state lines.

## **Can I grow my Improved Meyer lemon tree inside?**

Yes. Be sure to plant it in a large enough pot, and give the Improved Meyer Lemon tree as much sun as possible by locating it in a south-facing window. You can also supplement lighting by using grow lights. Also Improved Meyer lemon trees must be watered well and allowed to drain. A large basin under a pot with good drainage holes can help in this regard. If possible, you could also move the Improved Meyer Lemon tree outside to water it.

## **What is the difference between a regular Meyer Lemon Tree and an Improved Meyer Lemon Tree?**

The Improved Meyer Lemon Tree has been selectively bred to be more disease resistant. The growth habits, size, fruit size, and fruit taste are all the same for Meyer Lemon Trees and Improved Meyer Lemon Trees.

## **When should I plant my new Improved Meyer Lemon Tree?**

If you are planting your Improved Meyer Lemon tree in a pot to live indoors, you can plant it at any time. If you are planting it in the ground outdoors, then plant it in the early spring after all danger of frost has passed. In USDA Zones 8 to 11, a good time to plant is mid to late March.

## **When should I fertilize my Improved Meyer Lemon Tree?**

Fertilize your Improved Meyer lemon tree once every 4 to 6 weeks from February to August. Follow the fertilizer manufacturer's directions for the amounts based on the tree size. Always use a fertilizer formulated and designated as citrus fertilizer. Fertilizers that are made for citrus and avocado, or citrus and mango, are suitable as well.

## **Do I need two Improved Meyer lemon trees for them to grow fruit?**

No. Improved Meyer lemon trees are self-pollinating, and will grow fruit with no additional pollinator. But two trees grown together will usually produce more fruit than a single tree.