

Grapefruit

Citrus × paradisi · Rue family

DIFFICULTY Moderate
TYPE Evergreen perennial tree
MATURITY 3–4 years to first fruit



SUN
Full sun, warm



WATER
Regular, deep



SOIL PH
5.5–6.5



SPACING
5–6m



DEPTH
graft union
above soil

01 Needs real warmth

Grapefruit wants more sustained heat than lemon or mandarin to develop good sweetness and size — best suited to warm temperate and subtropical zones.



loose stake, first year

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant with the graft union above soil level.
SOIL	Well-drained, slightly acidic.
TIMING	Plant in spring in a warm, sheltered spot.

04 Problems

- **Citrus leaf miner** — prune affected tips.
- **Gall wasp** — prune out before spring.
- **Sooty mould** — treat the underlying pest.
- **Poor sweetness** — insufficient warmth; best suited to warmer zones.

03 Growing care

- Water deeply and regularly.
- Feed with a citrus fertiliser three times a year.
- Mulch around the drip line.
- Prune lightly after harvest to manage the tree's naturally large size.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Full colour and size, slight give when squeezed.
METHOD	Cut or twist from the stem.
CURING	None needed — holds well on the tree.
STORAGE	Room temperature 1–2 weeks, or refrigerated up to a month.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Comfrey Marigold	Close tree planting	Not applicable — perennial tree.