

Lemon

Citrus limon · Rue family

DIFFICULTY Easy–moderate
TYPE Evergreen perennial tree
MATURITY 2–3 years to first fruit



SUN
Full, sheltered



WATER
Regular, deep



SOIL PH
5.5–6.5



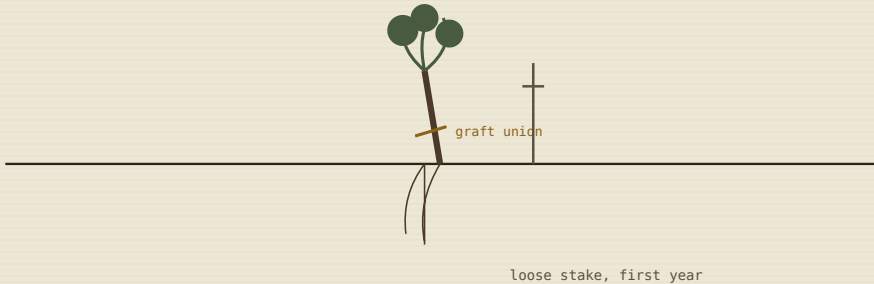
SPACING
3–4m



DEPTH
graft above soil

01 Planting depth

Keep the graft union — the knobbly join near the base — 5–10cm above soil level. Bury it and the tree can revert to rootstock, or rot at the join. Stake loosely for the first year.



02 Planting

METHOD	Plant with the graft union 5–10cm above soil level; never bury the trunk.
SOIL	Well-drained, slightly acidic. Use raised mounds in heavy clay.
TIMING	Plant in spring, once frost risk has passed, in a warm sheltered spot.

04 Problems

- **Leaf miner** — silvery trails on new growth; prune tips, avoid nitrogen flushes.
- **Gall wasp** — swollen stems; prune out galls before spring emergence.
- **Sooty mould** — follows sap-sucking pests; treat the pest, mould washes off.
- **Fruit drop** — irregular watering or stress; keep care consistent.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY

Comfrey

Marigold

Garlic

Nasturtium

AVOID NEARBY

Close tree planting

ROTATION NOTE

Not applicable — perennial tree. Renew soil before replanting citrus on old citrus ground.

03 Growing care

- Water deeply and regularly, especially through flowering and fruit set.
- Feed with a citrus fertiliser in early spring, late summer, and autumn.
- Mulch around the drip line, kept clear of the trunk.
- Prune lightly after harvest to open the canopy and remove crossing growth.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Full colour, slight give when squeezed. Taste-test one to confirm.
METHOD	Cut or twist fruit from the stem rather than pulling, to avoid tearing bark.
CURING	None needed — pick as required, fruit holds well on the tree.
STORAGE	Room temperature 1–2 weeks, or refrigerated up to a month.