

Orange

Citrus sinensis · Rue family

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



SUN
Full sun,
sheltered



WATER
Regular, deep



SOIL PH
5.5–6.5



SPACING
4–5m



DEPTH
graft union
above soil

01 Planting depth

As with all grafted citrus, keep the graft union 5–10cm above soil level. Oranges are a little more frost-tender than lemons — choose a warm, sheltered position.



loose stake, first year

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant with the graft union above soil level; stake loosely in the first year.
SOIL	Well-drained, slightly acidic; raised mounds in heavy clay.
TIMING	Plant in spring, in a warm, sheltered, sunny spot.

04 Problems

- **Citrus leaf miner** — silvery trails on new growth; prune tips.
- **Gall wasp** — swollen stems; prune out galls before spring.
- **Sooty mould** — follows sap-sucking pests; treat the pest.
- **Fruit drop** — irregular watering or stress; keep care consistent.

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, clear of the trunk.
- Prune lightly after harvest to open the canopy.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Full colour, sweet taste on testing — colour alone isn't always a reliable guide.
METHOD	Cut or twist from the stem.
CURING	None needed — fruit 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 Garlic	Close tree planting	Not applicable — perennial tree.