

Lychee

Litchi chinensis · Soapberry family

DIFFICULTY Moderate–hard
TYPE Evergreen perennial tree
MATURITY 4–6 years to first fruit



SUN
Full sun, warm,
sheltered



WATER
Regular, then
reduce before
flowering



SOIL PH
5.5–6.5



SPACING
8–10m



DEPTH
as per pot

01 Needs a cool, dry winter trigger

Lychees flower best after a period of cool, relatively dry winter weather — a genuine seasonal contrast, similar in principle to mango, is important for a reliable crop.



loose stake, first year

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant with the root flare at soil level; stake young trees.
SOIL	Well-drained, slightly acidic, high organic matter.
TIMING	Plant in spring, in a warm, sheltered, frost-free position.

04 Problems

- **Fruit fly** — net or bag developing fruit.
- **Poor flowering** — insufficient winter cool/dry period; more of a challenge in mild, wet-winter zones.
- **Birds and bats** — netting is close to essential at ripening.
- **Frost damage** — vulnerable while young.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Native groundcovers	Frost-prone positions	Not applicable — long-lived perennial tree.

03 Growing care

- Provide a cool, relatively dry period over winter to encourage flowering.
- Water well through spring and summer growth and fruiting.
- Feed lightly after harvest.
- Protect from frost while young.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Skin turns fully red/pink and slightly rough-textured.
METHOD	Cut small clusters with secateurs.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Fridge, about a week.