## Greenfield Citrus Nursery, Inc.

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### **CITRUS PLANTING & CARE INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1) Drive home <u>slowly</u>, especially if the tree is not covered. When transporting, handle the tree with the burlap, being careful not to pull on trunk of tree.
- 2) Dig the hole 2" deeper than the width and at least 6-10" wider than the diameter. Using the burlap corners on the bottom of the ball, carefully place the tree into the hole and position (the top of the root ball should be at grade level). Remove tar paper and string only, the **burlap must remain** on the bottom.
- 3) Slowly add water from the bottom of the hole as you refill it with soil. (<u>If planting in sandy soil, or decomposed</u> granite, you may want to include some clean top soil with mulch in the existing backfill; 1 part mulch to 3 parts soil.)



- 4) Using displaced soil, make a well around the tree (just outside the drip line). Growing flowers, vegetables, or other plants inside the well is **not** recommended. Keep **GRASS**, **ROCKS**, **GRANITE**, etc. out of the well area, with the exception of a ½ inch layer of mulch during summer (April thru October).
- 5) DO NOT FERTILIZE NEWLY INSTALLED TREES! Upon planting, Agriform tablets (compressed, slow release fertilizer) are acceptable. Add tablets in the last 4" of backfill. After the first year, fertilize in **March**, **June**, and **September** using a blended citrus food such as 16-8-4 or 16-8-2.
- 6) Tree trunks come wrapped in either burlap or cardboard to protect them from sunburn. **DO NOT REMOVE!** Eventually lower branches will grow down low enough to provide adequate protection; until that time keep wrap intact. You can paint the trunks of larger trees with white latex paint up to 4 feet. However, **trimming up lower branches is NOT recommended,** because your best fruit production occurs on the lower half of the tree.

### 7) WATERING: (MONITOR TO MEET WEATHER CONDITIONS)

- a) Refill the well every three days for the first two weeks after planting. If using drip irrigation place 3-4 emitters (2-4 gal/hr) over the root ball.
- b) After that, we recommend filling the tree well twice in one day (AM and PM) every 7-13 days in the summer.
- c) Every 3-4 weeks in the winter. Before changing irrigation schedules, using a probe, check soil moisture content 8" out from the trunk and 8" down into the root ball. If wet, skip 1 week.

**Excessive watering causes:** (1) moisture to collect between the trunk and the tree wrap resulting in disease, (2) root suffocation / rot, and (3)impedance to nutrient uptake. **These problems can ultimately kill the tree**.

- 8) Expect some wilting, and as much as 1/3 leaf drop within the first two weeks, following installation.
- 9) Normally, citrus do not require pesticide applications. However, if insects become a problem, spray as needed in April and September or as new growth appears. Use Malathion spray. Citrus thrips (insects) are difficult to control and may cause the new foliage to become malformed. Their presence is only cosmetic and has no major effect on the growth of the tree. DO NOT SPRAY WHEN BLOSSOMS ARE PRESENT!
- 10) If frost threatens, you can cover small trees with a bed sheet, blanket, or burlap. You can also pour a bucket of hot water into the tree well.
- 11) Keep dogs, rabbits, and hoofed animals away from tree area. Plastic trunk protectors are available at nursery stores.
- 12) Prune trees as needed, remembering that citrus are shrubs not trees. While light pruning can be done year-round, major pruning should be done during early spring or fall.

NOTE: All trees need 1-2 years to recover from transplanting. Please monitor watering and feeding schedules to meet seasonal conditions.

#### "SEASONAL EVAPORATION CHART"

### Citrus Tree Water Requirements in Gallons per Week

Canopy Spread (ft)	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	1	1	2	2	3	4	4	4	3	2	1	1
4		3	6	9	11	15	17	15	13	7	3	2
6	5	7	15	21	25	33	38	36	27	16	7	5
8	8	13	26	37	46	59	67	63	49	29	13	8
10	13	19	40	57	71	92	106	98	77	45	19	13
12	19	27	58	83	102	132	152	141	111	64	27	19
14	26	38	79	113	139	180	207	193	151	88	38	26

## **Fertilizing Recently Planted Citrus Trees**

Use 16-8-4 Citrus food or fertilizer for ornamental trees. The first number will be the nitrogen %; you should use 16% or less. The following guidelines are recommended with our trees.

First Year Citrus retail customers are given a slow release fertilizer when purchasing citrus from Greenfield Nursery.

This fertilizer is all that is needed for the first year (12 months).

**Second Year** 14" or 16" B&B citrus - apply 2 tablespoons

18" or 20" B&B citrus – apply 4 tablespoons 24" or larger B&B citrus - apply 6 tablespoons

**Third Year** Use double the amount of fertilizer suggested in the second year.

**Fourth Year** Use double the amount of fertilizer suggested in the third year.

When following the directions on a bag of fertilizer remember that the recommended amount used in one application is usually listed as one application. Divide this amount into 3 applications as to not "burn" the tree.

# FERTILIZER TYPES, SOIL SULFUR AS A SOIL CONDITIONER & THEIR APPROX. WEIGHTS

Material Under Consideration

	Amonium	Urea	Ammonium	Soil	Citrus
	Sulfate		Phosphate	Sulfur	Food
	21-0-0	45-0-0	16-20-0		16-8-4
1 pound coffee					- 440 !!
can holds:	2-1/2 lbs.	1-5/8 lbs.	1-7/8 lbs.	2-3/4 lbs	2-1/2 lbs
2 pounds coffee					
can holds:	4-3/4 lbs.	2-1/4 lbs.	3-5/8 lbs.	5-5/16 lbs.	5 lbs.
2 level measuring					
cups or 1 pint					
holds	1 lb.	3/4 oz.	14 oz.	1-1/4 lbs.	1 lb.
1 16-17 oz.					
vegetable-fruit can					
(303) size holds:	1-1/8 lbs.	3/4 lbs.	14 oz.	1-3/16 lbs.	N/A

<sup>\*</sup> Weights may vary slightly between manufactures.

Note: For 16-8-4 use 1/2 to 1 lb. Per inch of trunk diameter measured 24" above soil level.