Home Citrus Educational Series: How to Plant a Citrus Tree
Funded by: USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture-Grant # 2021-70029-36054

Planting a citrus tree properly is the first step in establishing good growth structure for the plant. The best time to plant a citrus tree in Florida is July through October.

**Step 1:** Select appropriate site and prepare it for planting
- Partial to full sun.
- If possible, give the tree some wind protection via a fence or walls.

**Step 2:** Gather tools and materials
- Shovel
- Clippers
- Gloves
- Water hose
- Measuring tape
- Fertilizer

**Step 3:** Dig hole
- Dig hole 1.5 to 2 times larger than root ball of citrus tree.
- Measure distance between trees and from buildings.
- Minimum distance should be 6 feet.

**Step 4:** Loosen root ball/Insert tree
- Keep the top of the root ball even with the existing soil line.
- May need to clip large matted roots or circling roots to promote outward growth.

**Step 5:** Fill in soil around roots
- Using fingers, not palm or foot, to gently pack soil around root ball to compress air pockets.

**Step 6:** Create berm and water
- Using hands, create berm around trunk
- Wet at least the first 3 inches of soil.
- If air holes form, fill in with more soil.
- Water 2-3 times per week for approximately 4 weeks.

**Step 7:** Fertilize
- Follow label instructions for amount.
- Spread evenly around trunk.
- Do not place directly next to tree trunk.

**Step 8:** Add mulch (optional)
- Add 3-4 inches thick outside of berm.
- Once tree is established, mulch can be placed in the berm.
- Do not pack or mound around base of the tree.

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