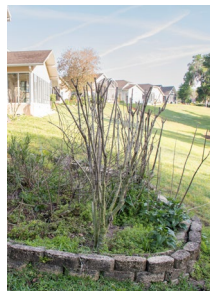


Home Citrus Educational Series: How to Plant a Citrus Tree

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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.