

Maturity and Production

Good production progresses with time. Good fruiting is realized at 3 years and peak production is reached at 8 years under good management.

There are usually 3–4 flushes of new citrus growth each year. Each flush is capable of producing flowers and setting fruits.

Harvesting

Harvesting is done before the fruit turns yellow but fully matured to ease handling. It is best done when the condition is dry or when it has not rained.

Yields

Citrus yield progresses with age. A mature tree under good management produces about 400kg of fruits.

Post-harvest handling

- Avoid injury to fruits and grade them as: rotten, damaged too small or too big, hard green or too-ripe.
- Store in a cool, dry place.



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CONTACTS

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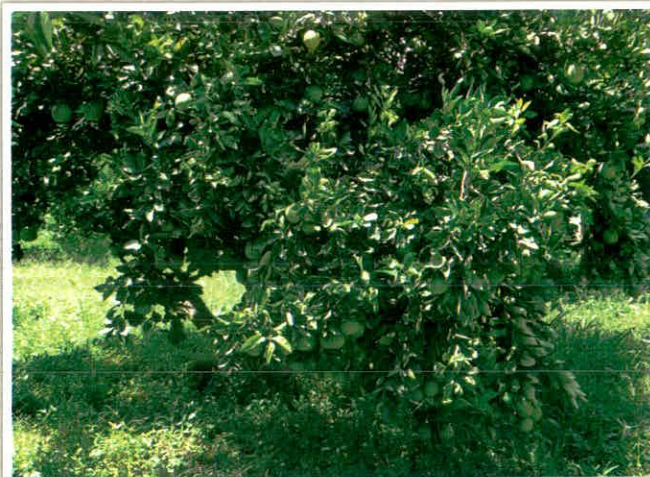
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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CITRUS PRODUCTION



IDENTIFICATION AND PROMOTION OF SELECTED
FAST GROWING AGRO-FORESTRY TREE SPECIES PROJECT
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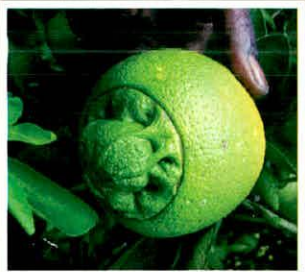
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Citrus (Sweet oranges)

Botanical names: *Citrus sinensis*

Varieties

Improved varieties include; Washington navel (seedless), Valencia, Lomati, Nova, Temple orange, Kuno and Frost Washington.



Washington navel



Temple orange

Site selection

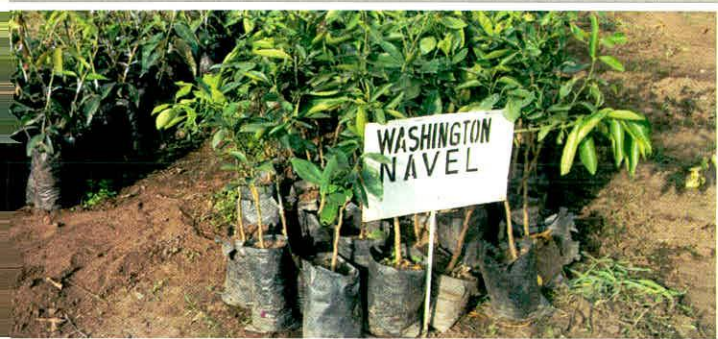
Deep fertile and well drained soils are suitable. Soils prone to water logging should be avoided and a soil pH of 6–8 is appropriate. Excessively salty soils and sites under big trees and stony areas also need to be avoided.

Land preparation

Deep cultivation is recommended and allow ample time for decomposition of organic matter.

Planting material

For a good Citrus crop, seedlings propagated vegetatively through budding and grafting are recommended and scions should be obtained from mother trees of desired qualities.



Citrus seedlings

Planting

- Planting should be during the rainy season preferably at the beginning of the first rains. Dig the planting holes at least one month prior to planting. Spacing of 6mx6m and 6mx5m are recommended giving plant populations of 111 and 133 plants per acre respectively.
- Planting holes should be dug 2 ft deep by 2 ft wide.
- Dig the hole in the centre, separating the top soil from sub-soil. Mix the top soil with manure, then fill back the soil up to the root collar.
- Place the seedling in the hole, back fill starting with topsoil.
- In the absence of rain, provide adequate watering.

Weed control

Ensure a weed free field / orchard. Control weeds by mulching, use of herbicides, slashing, or hand hoeing. Spot weeding while leaving a weed free radius of 50cm around the plant is adequate. Alternatively, do strip weeding in which 1m wide strips along the lines are kept free of weeds.

Intercropping

Intercropping is possible with shorter crops such as groundnuts, soybeans and beans. It is not advisable to intercrop with tall crops or heavy feeders like maize and sunflower.

Fertilizer or Manure Application

Nitrogenous fertilizers such as NPK, Urea and farmyard manure are widely used. Apply at least 1 ft away from the plant. However avoid excessive fertilizer application. Apply during flower initiation and immediately after harvest. To apply manure, dig the area around the soil, apply a basinful and then cover with soil.

Pruning

Well timed spraying with contact and systematic insecticides is effective at controlling the common pests. For disease control, copper based fungicides are recommended.



Well managed canopy



Improper canopy management

Pests and Diseases

Common pests include: Aphids, Leaf miners, Orange dogs, False codling moth and Scales. Major diseases are Citrus canker and Citrus scab.



Typical Citrus leaf damage by the Orange dog (encircled)

Control of Pests and diseases

- Use clean planting materials to prevent pest and disease spread.
- Well timed spraying with contact and systematic insecticides is effective at controlling the common pests. For disease control, copper based fungicides are recommended.
- Practice good sanitation right from the nursery.
- Avoid planting citrus seedlings at very low depth to avoid foot rot infection.
- The bud or graft union should be well above the soil surface and should not be exposed to stagnant water so as to control foot rot.