

## Problem Areas Cont...

### Yellow leaves

Primary reasons for this include over or under watering; draughts, cold exposure or poor nutrition.

### Excessive leaf fall

This can be a common problem but as long as the plants are not over or under watered, kept too hot or too cold, and are kept out of draughts, then this shouldn't be a problem.

## Summary

Citrus plants are very rewarding to grow. They are lovely evergreen plants, often with highly scented flowers. In addition, there is the potential to either pick an orange or a lemon for your gin and tonic!

One of the biggest problems with growing citrus fruit is trying to grow them indoors all year around. This can cause all sorts of problems such as mealy bug and whitefly. This has led some to consider them a difficult plant to grow. As long as you follow our guidelines however, you should achieve great results.

## Top Tips!

- Do not over-water, just keep moist
- Keep well fed at all times
- Keep out of draughts
- Stand them outside in the summer
- Only bring inside in the colder months

## Further Information


Please note that this information is only intended as a guide – put together from our knowledge and experience.

It should be noted, that on occasion, a plant can thrive in one situation but struggle under almost identical conditions. Like us, plants are living individuals – all different and unique. They should therefore be treated as such.

One of the best bits of general advice we can give you however, is to have a look at your neighbour's garden and see what they are growing. You are likely to be able to enjoy the same in your own garden.



# Citrus Plants

For more information get in touch with us, and we'll do our best to help and advise you.  **Trevena Cross**

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## Background

All citrus plants are best grown as patio plants in a sheltered sunny position outside. They only really need to be taken inside when the weather is very cold.

One of the most popular lemon varieties—Meyer—is perhaps so, because it is reputed to be hardy down to minus 7°C. However, all the citrus plants that we offer for sale should grow well in UK conditions as long as certain guidelines are followed.

Citrus bushes and trees can be grown in most pots and containers, but they are easiest grown in unglazed terracotta pots.

These pots tend to enable the plant's roots to breathe more easily, stopping them from getting too wet, something that they will not tolerate.

They can be potted on using a decent soil based compost, which will retain a level of moisture that the plant will require. Watering will then not be such an issue or burden.

Ensure crocks are used over the drainage holes in the bottom of the pots – polystyrene can be used for this purpose, great for drainage and nice and light making it easier to manage.

## Feeding

Citrus trees are actively growing most of the year round, and while there is a lot of different advice out there on feeding them, we suggest using a good balanced fertiliser—preferably slow release, to feed your citrus plants. Trevena Cross own general fertiliser is well balanced and with all the trace elements required for healthy plant growth, so something like this would be ideal.

## Flowering & Fruiting

Citrus plants produce most of their flowers in the winter—usually around December to February, but most varieties will flower on and off throughout the year. These flowers are very fragrant, with warmth the main contributing factor to good flower production. The flowers are bisexual so therefore do not require cross pollination. Fruits can take most of the year to fully develop.

## Problem Areas

### Red spider mite

This is one of the most common problems and is caused by very dry air. It is usually most common inside the conservatory or greenhouse, and whilst natural predators do exist, the best form of control is to keep the humidity high. Misting with water 1–2 times a day will help enormously.

### Lack of flowers

This is usually attributed to: it being too cold, erratic watering, lack of feed or low light levels.

### Flowers falling off before the fruit sets

This is normally caused either by dry roots or lack of humidity. To overcome this, keep the compost moist at all times and mist the leaves once or twice a day.

