

# Baileys guide to SENSATIONAL CITRUS







A handy guide to successfully growing Citrus in Western Australia with Neville Passmore

Available at SUNNINGS warehouse bunnings.com.au

## Baileys guide to SENSATIONAL CITRUS



In the last ten years there has been an explosion in the range of citrus varieties available to the home gardener and most can be grown and fruited with success in Perth gardens.

With garden spaces decreasing, pots offer a great way of keeping trees smaller than they would growing free in the ground. A sort of 'bonsai' effect happens here with the root system constrained by the size of the pot. Another way to keep trees from getting too big is to choose plants grafted on dwarfing rootstock. The best known of these is "Flying Dragon". Any variety of citrus — orange, lemon or grapefruit will become a dwarf on this

rootstock. Growing and training a citrus tree to grow flat against a wall is a great space saver too. This method known as espalier means you can cover a garden wall with bright green foliage and colourful fruit. It's best to grow against a north or west facing wall for maximum sunlight exposure.

## Planting

Our sandy soils are ancient and lack the essential soil carbon for successful growing. Add Baileys Soil Improver Plus to all planting holes. After planting use Baileys Moisture Mulch to keep the soil cool and moist. Citrus need to get regular watering during the establishment phase which can take a year or more. Take advantage of automatic reticulation systems where you can.





### Potting

Choose a pot larger than the one your new tree currently occupies. Place some Baileys Premium Potting Mix in the base, position your tree in the centre of the pot and then pour the potting mix straight from the bag to surround the root system. Avoid burying the plant deeper than it was in its original container. Water your plant extra well to settle the mix around the root system. Choose a tapered pot so you can lay it on its side and pull out the root system when it comes time to replace with fresh potting mix around the edges. A fresh addition of Baileys Premium Potting Mix every couple of years means your tree can remain in the same pot indefinitely.

### Feeding

Feed with Baileys Energy Garden and use the area under the canopy of the tree as a guide to the application area. The growing season for citrus in Perth extends from August to May so these are the months to be feeding your trees.

### Pests and Problems

The three most common citrus problems caused by pests around Perth are - scale insects, Citrus leaf miner and the slime brothers - slugs and snails. Take a photo of the affected area to your local Garden Centre for specific advice.



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