

Lemonade

Botanical Name: *Citrus limon x cinensis* (Rutaceae)

Common Name: Lemonade Tree

Origin: A natural crossbreed from New Zealand

Distribution: Little known outside Australia and New Zealand

Australian Distribution: Popular as a backyard tree throughout Australia, with a few small commercial plantings.

Preferred Climate and Soil Types: Like most citrus trees the Lemonade Tree prefers a sunny position and a well-drained soil. In areas with clay soils try building up a slight mound to 'lift' the soil level and plant on the mound to aid with drainage.

Description: A cross between an Orange and a Meyer Lemon, first cultivated in the 1980's, about 2.5-3 metres high. The fruit has the appearance and shape of a lemon and it is easily peeled, and segmented. It is sweet and juicy and has a sweet effervescent flavour with a low acid content, tasting of lemonade. It is devoid of bitterness and can easily be eaten as a fresh fruit, or squeezed for drinks. The Lemonade tree often has small thorns and can bear a heavy crop each year in the Darwin region.

Varieties: Nil

Culture: Prune out dead branches and some internal growth to allow light within the canopy to stop fungal diseases. In the Top End fertilise with a general mix slightly higher in nitrogen.

Pests and Diseases: Mites, scale insects, mealybugs, aphids, leafminer and fruit flies.

Fruiting Season: March to May with minor fruiting at other times

Harvesting: Fruit is ripe when light green in colour and is consumed fresh, juiced, with mixed drinks, or used to make marmalades with other citrus.

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