



# Growing Citrus in colder climates



While the idea of growing your own lemons, limes, oranges, and other citrus is very enticing, it is important to know how to care for them in our climate. If you are above 3,500 feet elevation, we don't recommend even trying to grow citrus because it doesn't usually get hot enough for good fruit production. If you are below 3,500 feet elevation, you can grow citrus but there is extra care involved. Most citrus is only hardy to about 28 degrees. This means that a winter frost will kill your precious bushes and trees. For this reason, we suggest keeping your citrus plants in a pot so that it can be brought inside (or at least moved under a porch or overhang) in winter. Another option is to cover your plant completely with frost fabric or plastic before and during cold snaps. You could also try hanging big-bulbed Christmas lights (the kind that give off a little bit of heat) on it to prevent frost from damaging the plant. Some people have been successful by using these techniques, but it is still risky if you plan to plant your citrus in the ground. In addition to protecting it in the wintertime, be sure to plant it in good soil, place it in full sun, water regularly (daily if kept in the pot), & use a citrus fertilizer in the summer. This will encourage healthy growth and fruit production so you can enjoy yummy citrus all year. A thick layer of mulch can help insulate the roots as well during the cold months.