

Do it Yourself Citrus Nursery

That's right. **YOU CAN GROW YOUR OWN CITRUS TREES** and you don't need to be an expert to do it! At TreeSource, we'll do the hard part by propagating "Starter Trees" for you in the variety and root-stock combination of your choice (*order minimum 1,000*). You invest about 12 months of time and a little money to finish the tree and you'll save yourself a lot of money and offer your accountant some options for writing off the expenses. **Here's how it works:**

1 ORDER YOUR STARTER TREE You need about 10-12 months to grow your own trees, so call TreeSource at least 14 months in advance of the date you want to plant your grove. It's best to start your nursery in April, so try to order your Starter Trees no later than December. You can start your nursery any month of the year, so if you didn't make a decision by December, we can help you make it work. Minimum Order Quantity 1,000 Starter Trees.



2 PREPARE THE NURSERY SITE You'll need a flat area where water will drain off. Laying down pea gravel helps with drainage or you can use "Weed Mat" as a way to keep your nursery area clean. A greenhouse isn't required, but if you want one, build it before you plant the Starter Trees. A semi-gabled roof as shown is best.



3 BUY YOUR INGREDIENTS A good tree requires the best ingredients and TreeSource can help supply your needs. We've trialed different pots, potting soils, stakes, and slow release fertilizers, and can save you time by providing you with ingredients that have proven success.

4 FILL YOUR POTS WITH POTTING SOIL A wheel barrow, scoop shovel and a some time will do the trick. Don't pack the soil too tightly in the container, but do pick up the pot and drop it in place at least once to settle the soil and insure there are no air pockets. There are many ways to do pot filling, but it's important to not over pack the soil, yet be sure there's no more than 1 inch of unfilled space at the top of the pot.



5 DEEP WATER THE SOIL This is done the day of planting. You need to hydrate the soil and settle it into the pot. Use a "water breaker" and insure that water comes out of the bottom of the pot. This indicates you've hydrated the entire soil column which may require more than one watering. If the wet soil seems to shrink down into the pot, add a bit more soil, but don't fill to the brim. Leave about 1 inch unfilled for future watering. A quality potting soil contains a wetting agent that insures uniform wetting of the soil column. A lousy soil mix can be a disaster, so don't cut corners on your mix and rely on the experts to supply you with the right potting soil.



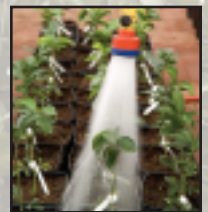
6 PLANT YOUR STARTER TREES Don't pick-up your Starter Trees from TreeSource until you've got soil in your pots. Let TreeSource take care of them until you're ready. Make sure the soil is moist in your pots and in the Starter Tree before planting. You'll have to make your own planting dibble as indicated. Just shove the dibble into the moist soil with a twisting motion. The cone on the dibble helps you gauge how deep to go. Grab a Starter Tree and remove from the cone (squeeze the plastic cone to loosen the rootball if it doesn't come out easily). Drop the naked Starter Tree into the hole. The top of the rootball should be level with the top of the potting soil. If it's too high, carefully pull out the Starter Tree and use the dibble to make the hole deeper. If the rootball is a bit lower than soil level, that's okay.



7 PRESS IN THE STARTER TREE The dibble should have made a perfect hole for the Starter Tree, but it's good to press down as indicated to insure root contact with the potting soil.



8 WATER IN YOUR NEW TREES Hand water in the Starter Tree to make sure it has settled into its new home. The Starter Tree has now become a nursery tree! Congratulations, you're on your way as a citrus nurseryman.



9 IRRIGATION There are many ways this can be accomplished. Hand watering is the simplest, but may be needed 3-4 times a week during the Summer! Drip systems work well, but filtration is required. Overhead water can work, but you have to be careful of water deposits on the leaves, run-off, and lack of uniformity that causes dry trees. Talk to your local irrigation expert for suggestions. You can do the install after planting as long as you hand water for a while.

10 FERTILIZATION The Starter Tree won't need any fertilizer for about 4 weeks because TreeSource gave it a shot before you picked it up. Slow release fertilizer is the simplest means of supplying constant feed to your tree. Use something close to an 18-6-12 formulation that contains micronutrients. Top dress your pot with the recommended amount. An 8 month material is suggested, but it won't last 8 months.

11 FOLIAR FEEDING Needed about every 6-8 weeks since citrus trees tend to be micronutrient deficient. Zinc and Manganese are the most common deficiencies, but Calcium, Magnesium and Iron can be deficient as well. Talk to your PCA or local chemical supplier for a recommended program for citrus.

12 PEST CONTROL If you're a citrus grower, you know about citrus pests. For a nursery, Citrus Thrips are your biggest enemy and can be a problem from May to October. Two Spot mites can flare up if your trees get into moisture stress and Red Mites can be a problem during cooler months. Worms, scales, aphids, and white flies can be problems, so hire a PCA to keep watch or take the time to inspect your trees weekly. Insect damage to the tender top shoot can dramatically slow development.

13 SUCKERING & SPROUTING Keeping one shoot that dominates the plant is important, so suckering and sprouting is a constant chore. Suckers occur on the rootstock and sprouts occur above the bud union. Sprouts are more common than suckers and you need to desprout frequently to insure the top shoot dominates. Citrus trees tend to grow in spurts and every time they start a new growth spurt, they try and put out multiple sprouts. The lower sprouts steal energy from the top one, so get them off quickly to help the tree grow taller. Desprouting doesn't



require pruning shears if they are removed at the size indicated.

You can relax a bit when the top shoot reaches the top of the stake. It's your decision how many low branches you prefer on your tree's trunk, but occasional sprouting will be necessary to keep the trunk free of unwanted branches.



14 STAKING A 1/2" x 48" bamboo stake is standard. This should be installed after your new tree has finished its first growth flush.



You might even wait until after the second flush, but the top shoot needs to be guided vertically. Place the base of the stake close to the trunk, but be careful not to penetrate the original rootball of the Starter Tree (this may damage your fragile root system). Be sure the stake is straight vertically and almost touching the bud union as indicated. Your goal is to grow the tree's trunk as straight as you can, so make sure there isn't a gap between the stake and the bud union.

15 TYING Once you've got your trees staked, go back through and tie them as indicated (Max Tapener shown, but tying by hand is okay). The purpose of tying is to give the tree a straight trunk and to keep the top bud dominating the plant. This reminds the plant which sprout is the most important and hopefully it will remember to give that sprout the most growing energy. If the tree is forgetful, see #13 above.



16 FROST PROTECTION The smaller your trees, the more frost sensitive they are. If growing outside a greenhouse, Frost Fabric can be tossed over your trees when a frost event is coming. It can be purchased from Peaceful Valley Farm Supply at www.groworganic.com. If well water is available, it can augment frost fabric since it is typically 70° F. Spacing sprinkler 10-15 feet apart next to your nursery and under the fabric should do the trick, but is not as effective as old-fashioned heat sources around your trees like diesel orchard heaters. Below 28° F for more than 4 hours will



burn new growth, while below 25° F for a few hours can wreak some havoc. It's wise to be prepared with some type of frost protection to insure your hard work is preserved.

17 RESULTS!! The photo indicates an actual finished tree grown by a Starter Tree customer. **Your tree is finished when it has fully rooted into the pot.** Unless you've had some problems, a Starter Tree planted in March should be fully rooted by Thanksgiving, without the use of a greenhouse. Starter Trees planted in a greenhouse in June can be ready to plant by the following April. A greenhouse will give you a couple more months of growing time, but if you plant early enough in the Spring, it's not required. The diameter of the trunk is directly related to the age of the root system, so a big diameter trunk can be achieved if you allow the time. However, don't be afraid to plant a smaller caliper tree if the tree is fully rooted.



That's the process! If you think you can handle the 17 steps above, then do step 1 and call TreeSource at (559) 592-2304 and **ORDER YOUR STARTER TREES** (order minimum 1,000). You can do your own citrus nursery and save money on your next property development while giving your accountant some creative ways to write off the expenses! You can also check us out on the web at www.citrustreesource.com.



502 North Kaweah
Suite "B"
Exeter, California
93221
(559) 592-2304