

Grapefruit

Citrus × paradisi · Rue family

DIFFICULTY Moderate

TYPE Evergreen perennial tree

MATURITY 3–4 years to first fruit



SUN
Full sun, warm



WATER
Regular, deep



SOIL PH
5.5–6.5



SPACING
5–6m



DEPTH
graft union
above soil

01 Needs warmth

Grapefruit wants more sustained heat than lemon or mandarin to develop good sweetness and size — best suited to warm temperate and subtropical zones.



graft union

loose stake, first year

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant with the graft union above soil level.
SOIL	Well-drained, slightly acidic.
TIMING	Plant in spring in a warm, sheltered spot.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

04 Problems

- **Citrus leaf miner** — prune affected tips.
- **Gall wasp** — prune out before spring.
- **Sooty mould** — treat the underlying pest.
- **Poor sweetness** — insufficient warmth; best suited to warmer zones.

03 Growing care

- Water deeply and regularly.
- Feed with a citrus fertiliser three times a year.
- Mulch around the drip line.
- Prune lightly after harvest to manage the tree's naturally large size.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Full colour and size, slight give when squeezed.
METHOD	Cut or twist from the stem.
CURING	None needed — holds well on the tree.
STORAGE	Room temperature 1–2 weeks, or refrigerated up to a month.
PRESERVING	See Canning & Bottling (marmalade and preserved citrus) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Comfrey Marigold	Close tree planting	Not applicable — perennial tree.