

# Lemon

*Citrus limon* · Rue family

**DIFFICULTY** Easy–moderate  
**TYPE** Evergreen perennial tree  
**MATURITY** 2–3 years to first fruit



**SUN**  
Full, sheltered



**WATER**  
Regular, deep



**SOIL PH**  
5.5–6.5



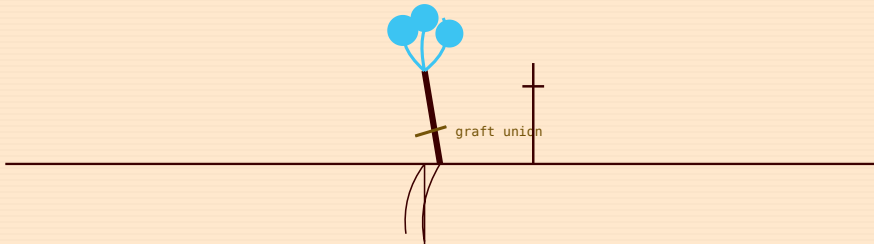
**SPACING**  
3–4m



**DEPTH**  
graft above soil

## 01 Planting depth

Keep the graft union — the knobbly join near the base — 5–10cm above soil level. Bury it and the tree can revert to rootstock, or rot at the join. Stake loosely for the first year.



loose stake, first year

## 02 Planting

|        |                                                                           |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| METHOD | Plant with the graft union 5–10cm above soil level; never bury the trunk. |
| SOIL   | Well-drained, slightly acidic. Use raised mounds in heavy clay.           |
| TIMING | Plant in spring, once frost risk has passed, 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

- **Leaf miner** — silvery trails on new growth; prune tips, avoid nitrogen flushes.
- **Gall wasp** — swollen stems; prune out galls before spring emergence.
- **Sooty mould** — follows sap-sucking pests; treat the pest, mould washes off.
- **Fruit drop** — irregular watering or stress; keep care consistent.

## 03 Growing care

- Water deeply and regularly, especially through flowering and fruit set.
- Feed with a citrus fertiliser in early spring, late summer, and autumn.
- Mulch around the drip line, kept clear of the trunk.
- Prune lightly after harvest to open the canopy and remove crossing growth.

## 05 Harvest & storage

|            |                                                                                                                 |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SIGNS      | Full colour, slight give when squeezed. Taste-test one to confirm.                                              |
| METHOD     | Cut or twist fruit from the stem rather than pulling, to avoid tearing bark.                                    |
| CURING     | None needed — pick as required, fruit holds well on the tree.                                                   |
| STORAGE    | Room temperature 1–2 weeks, or refrigerated up to a month.                                                      |
| PRESERVING | See <a href="#">Canning &amp; Bottling</a> (marmalade and preserved citrus) for ways to keep a harvest surplus. |

## 06 Companions & rotation

|                                                                         |                                     |                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PLANT NEARBY                                                            | AVOID NEARBY                        | ROTATION NOTE                                                                              |
| <a href="#">Comfrey</a> <a href="#">Marigold</a> <a href="#">Garlic</a> | <a href="#">Close tree planting</a> | Not applicable — perennial tree. Renew soil before replanting citrus on old citrus ground. |
| <a href="#">Nasturtium</a>                                              |                                     |                                                                                            |