

Lime

Citrus aurantiifolia · Rue family

DIFFICULTY Moderate
TYPE Evergreen perennial tree
MATURITY 2–3 years to first fruit



SUN
Full sun,
sheltered



WATER
Regular, deep



SOIL PH
5.5–6.5



SPACING
3–4m



DEPTH
graft union
above soil

01 Planting depth

Limes are the most frost-tender of the common citrus — give them the warmest, most sheltered spot available, ideally against a north-facing wall in cooler zones.



loose stake, first year

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant with the graft union above soil level; stake loosely.
SOIL	Well-drained, slightly acidic.
TIMING	Plant in spring, in the warmest, most sheltered position you have.

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

- **Frost damage** — the main risk; shelter or cover in cold snaps.
- **Citrus leaf miner** — silvery trails; prune affected tips.
- **Gall wasp** — swollen stems; prune out before spring.
- **Sooty mould** — follows sap-sucking pests; treat the pest.

06 Companions & rotation

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

03 Growing care

- Protect from frost while young — even light frost can damage limes.
- Water deeply and regularly, especially through fruit set.
- Feed with a citrus fertiliser three times a year.
- Mulch around the drip line, clear of the trunk.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Full size, still green (most limes are picked green) and glossy.
METHOD	Cut or twist from the stem.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Room temperature about a week, or refrigerated 2–3 weeks.
PRESERVING	See Canning & Bottling (marmalade and preserved citrus) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.