**To Start:** Choose a spot with full sun, preferably not in a lawn or anywhere competing with other trees. Plant your citrus tree in a soil formulated for citrus, such as our **E.B Stone Citrus and Palm Mix**. Incorporate it about 50/50 with your native soil, and mulch around the base of the tree with it. Mix some **gypsum** in as well to adjust the soil pH. Water well after planting. Pick up one of our **Planting Guides** for more detailed instruction.

**Watering:** When the tree is young (the first 2 years), deep soak it with about 5 gallons of water (or more, depending on the size of the tree) 1-2 times per week, depending on soil type and weather. If your soil is quick draining/sandy, you may need to water up to 3 times per week during extreme heat. Have a basin as wide as the top of the tree around the base of the tree, and make sure the water soaks all the way around the basin. Once your citrus tree has been in its spot for 3 years, you can reduce the frequency of watering. Your individual conditions in your yard will influence this, so you will need to check the soil around your tree to see how wet it's staying. Normally you can go down to a deep soak about once a week, or twice a week in extreme heat. A drip system would be ideal, or if watering by hand, the tree will need 6 or more gallons of water (depending on the size of the tree) applied slowly around the base. During winter, citrus trees don't need much supplemental water, but if we're having a warm, dry spell, you should check your tree and water accordingly.

**Fertilizing:** Always use fertilizer labeled for citrus trees. We recommend **Master Nursery Citrus Food** or **E.B. Stone Organic Citrus and Fruit Tree Food.** Do not apply fertilizer at the time of planting, as it can burn the tree. Wait for several months, until the tree is established, to begin fertilizing. There's an easy way to remember when to apply fertilizer by the holidays- Valentine's Day, Memorial Day, and Labor Day. Keep to this schedule, and you will have healthier trees with a better crop of fruit.

**Pruning:** Try to avoid heavy pruning on citrus trees. Prune lightly and regularly, removing dead branches and thinning out the center of the tree. Check monthly for suckers (growth at the very base of the tree) and remove them. Do not prune heavily between October and February.

**Problems:** There are many insects that can get on citrus trees and cause problems. Check your tree's leaves and branches regularly for distorted growth, stickiness, or visible insects. You can bring a sample with some of these symptoms on it to us, so we can help identify the problem and suggest a treatment. Another common problem is fruit split, which tends to happen in late summer and fall. This is largely caused by temperatures being much higher during the day than at night, and it's normal for some of the fruit to split. It can also be caused by irregular watering or over-watering, so be sure to follow the watering instructions given. The other problem people run into is yellowing on the leaves. This is usually caused by a lack of nutrients, high soil pH, or over-watering. **Chelated Iron** can help green them up fast, then follow a regular fertilizing schedule to keep them green. Apply **gypsum** or **soil acidifier** to lower pH. Some insect infestations can also cause yellowing, so examine the tree for signs of insects.