

Lemon

Lemons grow on small evergreen trees originating in southeast Asia. The fruit has been cultivated since ancient times. Often seen on farms in the Arriyadh region, the lemon tree is also a good ornamental tree for the garden, not least because of the excellent fragrance of its blossoms. Trees may be trained to a handsome shape. The bright yellow colour of the fruit contrasts well with the dark-green leaves. Alkaline soil and high salinity may cause chlorosis, which can be cured by applying iron chelate: soil should be well drained and sandy. Seedlings should not be grown because they often exhibit thorny twigs and plenty of water sprouts. Many cultivars may be reproduced by large cuttings, while cash crops are budded to ensure maximum fruit production. Trees should be spaced 7 metres apart. They should be pruned to a compact shape and rejuvenated by severe cutting back after ten years. Weedkillers should not be sprayed, since lemon trees are highly sensitive to herbicides. Commercial growers withhold irrigation in summer for a few weeks until the trees begin to wilt. After heavy watering and high nitrogen fertilisation, an enormous bloom is induced in early autumn. C. limon is susceptible to mealybugs and aphids and a citrus virus disease. Terracotta containers with lemon trees have a high ornamental value.



GENERAL

Origin	: Mediterranean, sub-tropical
Vigour	: normal growth rate
Humidity	: semi-arid, semi-humid
Propagation	: sowing and pricking out, cuttings, grafting
Maintenance	: high

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: vulnerable
Dessication	: vulnerable
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: medium
Salinity/ppm	: low (1000 ppm)
Hardiness	: -3°C

SHAPE

Type	: tree, shrub
Height	: 3 m-7 m
Spread	: 3 m-9 m
Foliage	: evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: white, purple
Size	: 1 cm - 2 cm
Period	: September - October
Smell	: scented, strong, gives freely of its scent, leaf, flower, fruit, sweet, fruity

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: berry
Fruit size	: 7 cm - 12 cm
Toxicity	: edible