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## Citrus Tree Care FAQ 1/22/22

Hello Citrus Tree Care Audience Members:

It was a pleasure to share some information with you about care for citrus trees in your home garden. Many of your questions were specific to a tree or situation in your yard and necessitates asking more questions. Since we weren't able to have a dialogue, I am recommending you follow these three steps to connect with the Placer County Master Gardener Hotline.

A. Start with asking yourself these questions about your tree/fruit

- What variety is the tree?
- When was the tree planted? What is the current size?
- How many hours of sun does the tree receive? What direction is it planted?
- What is the irrigation pattern? (how much and how often?)
- Is the tree planted in the ground or in a container?
- What type of soil do you have? If the tree is containerized, what type of soil mixture was used?
- Is the soil around the tree mulched?
- How have you been fertilizing the trees
- Does the foliage on the tree look healthy? Are the leaves green or are they yellowing? Are there signs of insect damage?
- How would you describe the fruit (color, shape, size, weight)

B. Now that you have thought about the condition of the tree, take some close-up photos of the leaves or fruit in question. Also take photos further from the tree so there is a sense of the environment the tree is growing in.

C. Send photos and information about the tree/fruit to the Master Gardeners of Placer County Hotline. (Hotline) The link below takes you to the email form or phone number. [https://pcmg.ucanr.org/Got\\_Questions/](https://pcmg.ucanr.org/Got_Questions/)

**Q. I frequently have a problem with soft scale on one of my Meyer lemon trees. I've used several products recommended by Green Acres to treat it. Do you have suggestions on how I might deal with the issue and what may be causing it to continually be a problem on that one tree? Thanks!**

A. I would recommend you read the following informational link on scale and follow the steps above to confirm identification and find solutions. <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7408.html>

**Q. If you find that the location is not ideal after planting, can the plant be moved? The Oro Blanco has been in the ground for 4 years.**

A. The size of the tree would help determine the answer to your question. Please follow the three steps listed above and include what concerns you about the current location?

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**Q. Usually I get lemons every year. The gardener trimmed the tree and no fruit and flowers. How can I encourage it to bloom again?**

A. Some citrus trees will produce well only every other year, producing a good number of fruits one year and only a few fruits (or none at all) the next year. Untimely or too severe pruning may result in no fruit. It may also be a water or fertilizer issue. Please follow the steps listed above and indicate what month the tree was trimmed.

**Q. What do you think is the best kumquat?**

A. Taste is such an individual preference. The best thing about growing citrus is the home gardener can grow what they like. Here is a link to an informational blog that will provide some information about kumquats. <https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=12402>. Another suggestion is to visit a farmer's market and talk to the citrus farmers.

**Q. Can I find and grow Yuzu in Roseville?**

A. With proper planting, irrigation and fertilizing, a yuzu tree should do well in zones 8-9. Yuzu requires full sun and is hardy to 24 degrees. Check reputable nurseries for the trees. Four wind growers is sold out for the season.

**Q. My Meyer lemon lost a substantial amount of leaves (some due to winds), but it is still blooming and creating fruit. But almost all of the baby lemons are very dark (almost black/purplish). As they grow bigger it looks kind of mottled on the green fruit. This has never happened before, so I'm wondering why they are colored that way this year. The tree is 4 years old.**

A. With both leaf loss and unnatural fruit color, the situation needs to be investigated further. Please follow the steps listed above, taking pictures so the Hotline team can help you identify the problem and offer solutions.

**Q. I put a layer of wood bark over the irrigation rings to mulch under my VERY old orange tree? Is that okay to use as much? Not against trunk of course.**

A. Wood bark is a recommended mulch for citrus trees.

**Q. I bought a tree from Green Acres and there is no fruit yet. How long will it be before I see some?**

A. Many varieties of citrus do not produce fruit until their third year. Some other citrus varieties (including, for example, Meyer lemons) may start producing at a younger age. Since I don't know the type of citrus or when you bought it, I would recommend you follow the steps listed above and share your information and photos with the Hotline.

**Q. I have a pomelo tree that fruited the first year. The second year did not even bloom. What did I do wrong?**

A. Maybe nothing ... Some citrus trees will produce well only every other year, producing a good number of fruits one year and only a few fruits (or none at all) the next year. On the other hand, how would you describe the crop in year one – light or heavy, small or large, regular shape or unusual? Irrigation issues, pruning incorrectly and lack of fertilizer all may affect blossom and fruit. Have you seen bees around for pollination? I would recommend you follow the steps listed above and share your information with the Hotline.