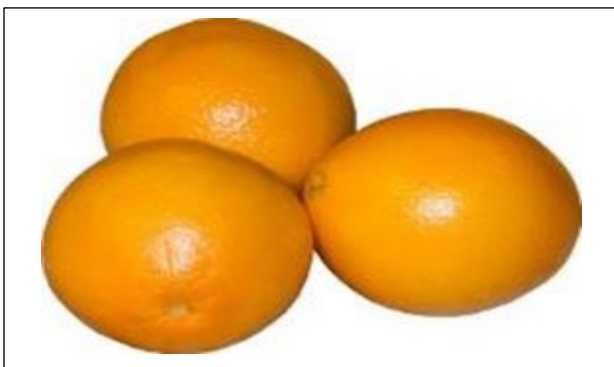


# Know What You Grow!



## Navel Orange

**Scientific Name:** *Citrus × sinensis* –  
*sweet orange*

**Recommended Varieties:**

- 'Washington'
- 'Cara Cara'
- 'Fukumoto' Early 'Washington'
- 'Moro' Blood Orange

**Common Pests:**

Ants, scales, leafminer, whiteflies, Asian citrus psyllid, mites.

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### Growing Information

**Subtropical**

Citrus trees should be planted where they will receive full sun most of the day, damage can occur when temperature drop below 29°.

**Ideal Planting Window**

The best time of year to plant citrus is in the spring after the danger of frost has passed. Trees planted in the spring will have more time to grow and will withstand the cold weather of their first winter better than trees planted later in the year. Early planting is especially desirable in inland areas where hot summer weather can damage trees that are not well established.

**Growing Guidance**

Citrus trees prefer well-draining soils, apply enough water at each irrigation to wet the soil three feet deep every two to six weeks depending on the soil and time of year.

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## Interesting Facts

The orange is a hybrid citrus fruit of the pomelo and mandarin. Oranges have been grown since ancient times and originated in Southeast Asia.

In 1873, the U.S. Department of Agriculture forever changed the history of Southern California when it sent two small navel orange trees to Riverside resident Eliza Tibbets. Those trees, growing in ideal soil and weather conditions, produced an especially sweet and flavorful winter harvest fruit. Word of this far superior orange quickly spread, and a great agriculture industry was born.

California and Florida are large producers of oranges in the [US](#), and around 85% of all oranges produced are used for juice.

During the years of world exploration, sailors planted orange and other citrus trees along trade routes to prevent scurvy, a disease that develops from a deficiency of vitamin C.

There are now over 600 varieties of oranges worldwide.

Oranges are a treasure trove of nutrients and protective plant compounds, including vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants.

[Sciencekids](#)

[California Citrus State Historical Park](#)

## Harvesting and Pruning

Oranges do not ripen after they are harvested, so pick the fruit at the right stage of maturity. The peel color may change from green to orange when air and soil temperatures cool with the approaching winter. The color change can be misleading: it is not a true indicator of the fruit's level of maturity. Most Navel oranges mature in winter to early spring.

Pruning can improve fruit quality through increasing light in the canopy. In some cases, pruning out water sprouts (gourmands) may improve yields. Reducing tree height facilitates harvesting. Skirt pruning facilitates weeding, mulch laying, and other cultural practices, as well as reducing risk of soil borne pathogens affecting the fruit.

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### Orange Dream Cups



4 Large Navel Oranges

1 pk Orange (3 ounce) Gelatin

1 Cup Boiling Water

1 ½ Cups Frozen Fat-Free Frozen Yogurt

Cut each orange in half widthwise; carefully remove fruit from both halves, leaving shells intact. Set shells aside. Section orange pulp, then dice (discard orange juice or save for another use).

In a large bowl, dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Add frozen yogurt; stir until melted. Fold in orange pulp. Refrigerate until thickened. Spoon into reserved orange shells. Cover and freeze for 3 hours.

[Tasteofhome](#)

## Contact Information



**RIVERSIDE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**

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