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Lemon

Citrus limon

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9a

Description:

Attractive foliage on this large shrub or small tree are reddish when young, becoming dark green with lighter green undersides; seasonal fragrant flowers produce yellow fruit that have great flavor; protect from frost; showy on the landscape

Edible Qualities

Lemon is a small tree that is typically grown for its edible qualities. It produces yellow fruit which are typically harvested when mature. The fruits have a tangy taste and a juicy texture.

The fruit are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Cooking
- Baking
- Juice-Making
- Sauces

Lemon fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Lemon fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Features & Attributes

Lemon features showy clusters of fragrant white star-shaped flowers with buttery yellow eyes at the ends of the branches from early to mid spring, which emerge from distinctive lilac purple flower buds. It has attractive dark green foliage with light green undersides which emerges brick red in spring. The glossy oval leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter. It features an abundance of magnificent yellow berries from late fall to late winter. The fruit can be messy if allowed to drop on the lawn or walkways, and may require occasional clean-up.

Lemon flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This is a multi-stemmed evergreen tree with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition. This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds, bees and butterflies to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spiny

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Lemon is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Lemon will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more. This is a self-pollinating variety, so it doesn't require a second plant nearby to set fruit.

This tree is typically grown in a designated area of the yard because of its mature size and spread. It does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.

Lemon is a good choice for the edible garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.

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