

Mandarin

Citrus reticulata · Rue family

DIFFICULTY Easy-moderate
TYPE Evergreen perennial tree
MATURITY 2–3 years to first fruit



SUN
Full sun,
sheltered



WATER
Regular, deep



SOIL PH
5.5–6.5



SPACING
3–4m



DEPTH
graft union
above soil

01 Planting depth

Mandarins are among the most cold-hardy citrus, tolerating light frost better than lime or orange — a good choice for the cooler edge of citrus-growing country.



loose stake, first year

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant with the graft union above soil level; stake loosely.
SOIL	Well-drained, slightly acidic.
TIMING	Plant in spring.

04 Problems

- **Citrus leaf miner** — silvery trails; prune affected tips.
- **Gall wasp** — swollen stems; prune out before spring.
- **Sooty mould** — follows sap-sucking pests; treat the pest.
- **Fruit drop** — irregular watering or stress.

03 Growing care

- Water deeply and regularly, especially through flowering and fruit set.
- Feed with a citrus fertiliser three times a year.
- Mulch around the drip line, clear of the trunk.
- Prune lightly after harvest.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Full colour, fruit feels slightly soft and comes away easily.
METHOD	Cut or twist from the stem.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Room temperature about a week, fridge up to a month.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Comfrey Marigold Garlic	Close tree planting	Not applicable — perennial tree.