

FGCU Food Forest

Plant Database

Meyer Lemon (*Citrus meyeri*)

Quick Facts

Origin: China
Description: 6-9 foot tree
Culinary Uses: Eaten raw, used to season many recipes
Harvest: Primarily in winter months
Flower: Small white flower
Cold Tolerance: Will not sustain many frosts

General Description: The Meyer Lemon, when grown in the ground regularly reaches 6-9 feet, but can be pruned or planted in pots. The leaves are dark green and tend to be waxy and shiny. The fruit is similar to a conventional lemon, but is usually rounder and when ripe it is more orange. The flower is typically small and white with yellow antheridium. The plant is believed to be a cross between a pure lemon and a mandarin orange tree.



- **Native Origin:** China, and other parts of East Asia.
- **Harvesting Techniques:** It typically takes a couple years for the tree to bear any fruit, but once it begins it is plentiful. At full size, one tree has the potential to produce around 1000 fruits per year. The fruit is present and harvestable for most of the year, but is most plentiful during the winter months. The fruits will begin as a green color, and as they mature they will develop into a yellow-orange when harvestable.
- **Season of Harvest:** Almost year round, but particularly in the winter months.
- **Culinary Uses:** They Meyer Lemon is much less acidic than the common lemon and therefore has a sweeter and less sour taste. The fruit can be eaten raw or used to season up any meal or drink. It is primarily used as a sweeter substitute for regular lemons. On top of its variable use to add flavor to many recipes, it is a good tart addition to many fruit salads and its acidic properties will preserve the salad.
- **Nutritional Value:** Very high in Vitamin C.

Meyer Lemon
Scientific Classification

Kingdom: Plantae
(unranked): Angiosperms
(unranked): Eudicots
(unranked): Rosids
Order: Sapindales
Family: Rutaceae
Genus: Citrus
Species: B. meyeri

Sources

O'Hara, J. *The meyer lemon: More than a pretty face.*

Retrieved from <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=100778147>

Michaels, K. *Growing Meyer Lemon Trees in Garden Pots.*

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Meyer Lemon. (n.d). In Encyclopedia Wikipedia online.

Retrieved February 18, 2014 from the OLPC Wiki: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meyer_lemon