



TIEG March 2012 Event

“How to Cultivate Indoor/Outdoor Trees”

Lecture by Dan Jarms

Jarms Citrus & Tropicals, Spokane, WA

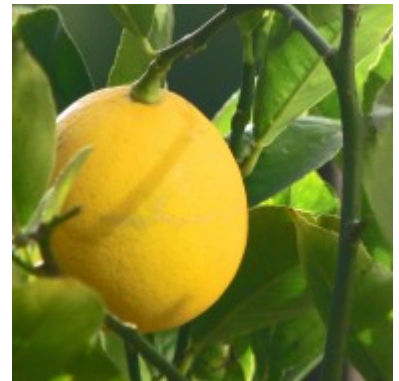
Saturday March 17, 2012—11am-1pm

Manito Park Meeting Room, 4 West 21st Ave

- east of the Gaiser Conservatory

Free to TIEG members--Refreshments will be served

Growing Citrus in Spokane? Yes you can! Growing dwarf citrus indoor and outdoor in northern climates is simple once you know all the facts. There is nothing like picking Meyer lemons for your tea from a tree in your living room in January. It's surprisingly easy and they are stunningly beautiful. Come learn the basics of caring for dwarf citrus in northern climates. Dwarf citrus trees have come a long way in the past few years. Today's dwarfs produce tastier fruit. When you provide the essential elements of success for growing, you'll enjoy a fragrant, ornamental, and delicious plant unlike any other!



Try a New Adventure! Dwarf Citrus offers a whole new experience for indoor and outdoor gardening. You get beautiful foliage, blossoms and fragrance indoors in the winter and fruit bearing in the summer. Harvest high quality fruit in your living room. You'll learn about the easiest varieties to grow in Spokane. Jarms Citrus is operated by Brenna, Evan Jarms with their father Dan in North Spokane. They will be selling plants at this year's Garden Expo.



The Plants - Citrus is a subtropical plant that can be divided into two types: acid (lemons and limes) and sweet (grapefruits and oranges). Sweet varieties often require considerable heat for the fruit to ripen,

so growing oranges or grapefruit indoors can require patience, as the fruit may take a long time before it's fit to eat. That said, remember that oranges have been grown indoors successfully for centuries. In fact, King Louis XIV of 17th century France had a fabulous orangerie--an indoor facility where the temperature was regulated year-round--built amidst the gardens of the Palace of Versailles because he wanted to smell the fragrance of orange blossoms all year long.



“And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.” - Bible, Genesis 1.11

Jarms Citrus & Tropicals

DWARF CITRUS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. Can you really grow dwarf citrus in Spokane?** Absolutely! Treat it is a houseplant and give it the right conditions and they will thrive in Spokane. Leave it outside from May to late Sept and it will set fruit to harvest in the winter. Bring it in when temps dip below 40°F. Pick lemons, oranges and limes in your own living room!
- 2. How big do they grow?** Up through the first 4 years trees will rarely be over 3 ft by 3 ft plus the pot. Prune it to the size you like. Since you will want to move it outside in the summer you may wish to keep the size smaller than the doorway. 6-10 feet is about the maximum size in a very large pot.
- 3. When can I expect blossoms and fruit?** Trees 2 to 3 years old start bearing blossoms and fruit. Oranges generally blossom in spring and bear fruit in the fall and winter. Lemons blossom every three months or so and can get to a point where there are always blossoms and fruit. Limes blossom in the spring and bear fruit in the fall.
- 4. Are dwarf citrus self-pollinating?** Yes each blossom has male and female parts. You only need one tree to get fruit. You can try pollinating with a cotton swab or gently pinching the pollen into the stamen. Best results happen in spring and summer when bees can get to the blossoms.
- 5. What conditions do they require?** Light easy draining soil. Full sun in the summer or south facing window in winter. If you don't have a south window, supplement with compact fluorescent lights in a clip light. Winter watering needs are much less and the most common problem is over watering. Don't let them sit in water or they will get root rot.
- 6. What kind of soil does it need?** Citrus like slightly acidic soil that drains well and will dry out. Best soils have a blend of decayed compost, coir/peat moss and vermiculite. Some soils are prepared with extra sand even though it makes the soil a bit dense.
- 7. How often do I need to re-pot?** For the first 3 years re-pot each year. Find a pot just an inch or so bigger than the one it came in. They will develop better if you don't jump to a big pot. When the trees are in their 4th or 5th year you can start slowing down the re-potting. Once it is as big as you want, you should take them out every 2 years and do a little root pruning and add some fresh soil.
- 8. What kind of fertilizer do I use?** Citrus need acidic soil to take up the most nitrogen. Commercial fertilizers for Azaleas and Rhododendrons work great. We recommend Miracid by Miracle Gro. They are high nitrogen feeders in the summer so you can feed frequently. Organic fertilizers are available also.
- 9. What pests do they get?** The major pests are aphids, spider mites and scale. In some climates, slugs can be a problem as well. Treat with a fruit and vegetable spray. Both chemical and organic pesticides are available in a garden center. Scale is the hardest to treat and we recommend using a fruit tree systemic. We treat our personal trees with a systemic in between bloom cycles in the summer and after harvest lemons in the winter.
- 10. How do I prune?** Trees: Prune the tree like any tree. Keep the shape compact and the middle open. Meyer Lemon has more of a bush like quality and can get leggy. Blossoms will set according to the strength of the plant and will usually lose 80% of blossoms and small fruit. Fruit: If you get clusters to set they will usually self-prune dropping most fruit. When fruit gets to thumb size, prune to one every six inches. Size and taste will be better.