

Fruit Trees

Contrary to popular opinion, fruit trees are relatively easy to grow. Many fruit trees can be successfully grown out of their "preferred" environment with the right selection of site, variety and nutrition.

Citrus

Citrus trees do well in all warm and mild climate zones and are suited to well-drained friable soil that is high in organic matter. An application of [Multicote Controlled Release](#) products (ranging from 4 to 12 month releases) would be beneficial for new plantings. If using powdered fertilizers such as [Blood & Bone + K](#), these should be used 4-5 weeks after planting.

For mature trees, an application of 500 grams per square metre of [Fruit and Flowering Food](#) or [Multipurpose](#) would be ideal twice a year. There should be two applications per season during active growth periods in early spring to late summer. For very sandy soils, the application should be halved and applied four times a year in September, November, January and March.

Deciduous Fruit Trees

As deciduous trees lose their leaves, they can be grown in districts with cold climates and frost. Deciduous fruit trees enjoy well-drained soil and will not tolerate heavy or waterlogged soils. An application of fertilizer in late winter or early spring is recommended at the rate of approximately 500 grams per tree for each year of age. A fertilizer with approximately 10% Nitrogen such as [Multipurpose](#) would be beneficial. Other fertilizers to use could be the [Multicote Controlled Release](#) products.

Vine Fruits

Trellised vine fruits are often prolific and respond well to fertilizer applications. A fertilizer at approximately 10% Nitrogen would be recommended, such as [Multipurpose](#) or [Prolific Blue](#), at approximately 500 grams per vine (passionfruit).

Tropical Fruits

Many tropical fruit species can be grown successfully in more temperate climates if a sunny, sheltered position is provided. Tropical fruit growth responds differently to fertilizer applications; for example, mangoes respond well to small amounts of fertilizer regularly - 500 grams per year of tree growth split into applications

in October, December, February and April. For other crops, applications may be only twice a year.

Berry Fruits

Strawberries, Raspberries and Gooseberries require high organic matter in a well-drained soil. An application of fertilizer before planting is recommended, such as **Paton's Blood & Bone + K**