

The Key lime



Citrus × aurantiifolia is a citrus hybrid (*C. micrantha* x *C. medica*) with a spherical fruit, 2.5–5 cm (1–2 in) in diameter. The Key lime is usually picked while it is still green but it becomes yellow when ripe.

C. aurantiifolia is a shrubby tree, to 5 m (16 ft), with many thorns. Dwarf varieties exist that can be grown indoors during winter months and in colder climates. Its trunk, which rarely grows straight, has many branches, and they often originate quite far down on the trunk. The leaves are ovate, 2.5–9 cm (1–3 ½ in) long, resembling orange leaves (the scientific name *aurantiifolia* refers to this resemblance to the leaves of the orange, *Citrus aurantium*). The flowers are 2.5 cm (1 in) in diameter, are yellowish white with a light purple tinge on the margins. Flowers and fruit appear throughout the year, but are most abundant from May to September in the Northern Hemisphere.

Category: Citrus

Families: Rutaceae

Genus: Citrus

Species: aurantiifolia

Geographical Area of Origin: South-East Asia

Climatic Zones: Sub-tropical, USDA 10 b (Southern Italy and islands)

Habit: Shrub

Leaves: Evergreen

Colore Foglie: Verde ☒

Flowering Period: Gennaio / Febbraio / Giugno / Luglio / Agosto / Settembre / Ottobre / Novembre / Dicembre

Flower: Corymb

Colore Fiori: Bianco ☐

Favorite soil: Sub-acid / medium acid / Middle-Dough / Medium soil

Water needs: Medium

Light Exposure: Medium shade / Half shade / Full light / Full sun

Form: Espalier / Pyramid / Tree / Grown as shrub / bush



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Colore Frutti: Verde ☐ Giallo ☐

Parfumed: yes