



Calamondin

Citrus mitis

Pennard
Growing the Dream

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This is an acid citrus fruit originating in China, which was introduced to the U.S. as an "acid orange" about 1900. The edible fruit is small and orange, about one inch in diameter, and resembles a small tangerine

The peel is thin and smooth, yellow to yellow-orange and easily separable. Calamondins can be grown as an ornamental and will do very well as a tub or container plant in colder regions that commonly do not grow citrus. It is moderately drought-tolerant.

Calamondin potted citrus plants prefer bright light for best growth and fruiting. You may keep them at medium light intensities during midwinter. Indoors, they should be placed in a very well lit area. During the warm months, they should be placed outdoors. Calamondins do not grow well at temperatures below 5 degrees C.

Water plants as needed only, excess or lack of water will kill a tree. Allow the surface inch of soil to become dry before watering. Fertilize sparingly during the winter months using one-half strength water-soluble fertilizer, about every five weeks. Add a slow-release fertilizer such as Osmocote to the container in early spring and continue fertilizing with full strength water-soluble fertilizer monthly during the summer growing season. Dusty leaves usually result in mite and scale infections, wash the leaves with a sponge frequently to avoid these problems which may cause serious problems in small tree.