

WICKENBURG LANDSCAPE & IRRIGATION, INC.

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Citrus care

Since we have detailed in previous newsletter articles how to protect citrus trees from the cold weather that sometimes hits Wickenburg during our winter months we're now going to lay out the steps of encouraging our citrus trees to produce higher quality fruit. The first and primary mistake most people around Wickenburg make is that they use the same timetable as Phoenix for spring fertilization. While our highs are consistent with Phoenix our nighttime temperatures drop about 10° more than Phoenix. This difference in temperature is the reason that our citrus trees lag behind those in the valley by as much as 3 to 4 weeks. The second mistake people commonly make is that they fertilize based on a set day on the calendar rather than letting the weather or the citrus trees themselves tell them when they are ready for fertilizer. The easiest way to tell



according to the size of each tree. Measuring rule of thumb is three average sized handfuls of fertilizer equals 1 pound. As you spread this fertilizer around the base of the tree you

will need to slightly till the fertilizer into the top 1 to 2 inches of soil. The most important part of this process is to hand water the fertilizer in with a hose. Turning on the irrigation system and letting that water in the fertilizer does not work. If fertilizer is not watered in correctly it can burn exposed roots and cause more damage. In a typical year this first fertilizing happens between the end of January to the end of February. Once the first fertilization is complete we repeat the process with citrus food three more times with eight weeks in between each fertilization. Keeping this program up for several years will help develop more and healthier fruit that you will be able to enjoy or share with friends.

Whether you promote and try to get the best citrus possible or not please do not waste the fruit. If you are not able to eat your citrus or there is too much please contact Wickenburg Landscape and someone will come out at no charge and pick your fruit and then donate it to those who are less fortunate. Together we can enrich the lives of others to be able to enjoy the simple pleasure that homegrown fruit can bring.

Important!
*If buds are already opening
DO NOT FERTILIZE
at this time!*

when a citrus tree is ready for fertilizer is when the buds are the size of peas. At this time we want to fertilize with either citrus food or triple phosphate. If we fertilize at this time correctly we can help "harden" the bloom from possible future cold snaps that will tend to knock off buds. Remember no blooms no fruit.



By reading the fertilizer label we will be able to determine how much fertilizer to use