



The Backyard Orchard – Citrus Module 1.7 – Lemon & Lime



LSU AgCenter Backyard Orchard Certificate
Course

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Lemons



- True lemon - *Citrus limon*
- Native to Southeast Asia
- Genomic studies indicate it is a hybrid between bitter orange (*Citrus x aurantium*) and citron (*Citrus medica*)
- Lemon juice is about 5-6% citric acid with a pH of 2.2, thus the sour taste
- Yellow ellipsoidal fruit is very distinctive
- Most popular containerized citrus
- Lemon trees tend to bear fruit year-round – flowers, green fruit and ripe fruit present simultaneously
- Very cold sensitive
- Fruits hold well on the tree for months

Improved Meyer Lemon



- Not a “true” lemon - Cross between a lemon and a sweet orange
- Small tree 6-10’ tall
- Fruit has thin, smooth, yellow-orange skin and seeds
- Medium fruit is very juicy and sweeter than the standard lemon
- Mature Meyer trees can withstand temperatures as low as 20°F for short periods

Ponderosa Lemon

- Also not a “true” lemon – Cross between a pommelo and a citron
- Large thick-skinned fruit the size of grapefruits – 1-2 lbs each
- Mature tree up to 24’ tall – often grafted onto dwarf rootstock
- Fruit is very similar to standard lemon in taste and acidity



Eureka Variegated Pink Lemon



- Mature tree up to 15' tall
- Foliage is variegated, with glossy, ovate leaves splashed with patches of creamy yellow
- Fruits are round, and young lemons have unique green striping
- As the lemons ripen, their skin takes on a solid yellow color, while the inner flesh is pale pink
- Probably the most cold-sensitive of all lemon varieties

Lisbon Lemon

- Old heirloom variety, one of the most cold hardy “true” lemons
- Mature tree typically 15’ tall but can be 30’ tall by 25’ wide.
- Trees tend to be thorny
- Large juicy fruit with few seeds.
- Fruit may over ripen if left on the tree.



Shape and Comparative Size

LISBON



EUREKA



MEYER



PONDEROSA



Lime



- Lime is a citrus fruit typically round, green in color, 1 ¼” to 2 ½” in diameter with acidic juice
- Distinctive flavored fruit produced year-round
- Several species of citrus are known as lime. The three most popular are:
 - Persian Lime (*Citrus x latifolia*) key lime x lemon hybrid. Most grown worldwide
 - Key Lime (*Citrus aurantiifolia*)
 - Makrut (Kaffir) Lime (*Citrus hystrix*) grown for leaves
- Most cold sensitive citrus



Persian Lime



- Medium sized thornless tree 15-20' tall
- Easily grown in containers
- Small to medium fruit (2.4" dia.) are picked green and will turn yellow when mature
- Fruit is seedless



Key Lime



- Medium tree 6-13' tall but easily grown in containers
- Small juicy fruit about 1 ½ - 2" diameter
- Smooth thin rind with 10-15 seeds
- Fruit is picked green but yellow at maturity
- Also know as Bartender's lime, Mexican lime, and West Indian lime



Makrut Lime



- Thorny tree 6-35' tall
- Grown primarily for its aromatic and distinctively shaped "double" leaves.
- Leaves are used in cooking, especially, Asian cuisine
- Fruit (2" dia.) is very bumpy and inedible





Please post all your questions and results to the message board that was emailed to you.