

## Orangery Task

- First, read and annotate the passage on citrus plants.
- Then using what you know about citrus plants, **look at a layout of the Orangery at Hampton Mansion** and determine elements of the Orangery that help Citrus plants grow in Maryland's cold winter climate.
- Use text evidence from the passage "How to Grow Citrus Plants" to explain how the Hampton Mansion Orangery provided the environment necessary for plant growth.



### How to Grow Citrus Plants

Citrus trees have lovely bright green foliage & fragrant flowers, are valuable as ornamentals or orchard trees and their fruit is an excellent source of Vitamin C.

Citrus trees are not difficult to grow but do have certain requirements that need to be met. Citrus are affected by cold and accumulated heat. Taking advantage of microclimates around your house may aid you in growing these cold-sensitive fruits. The following lists citrus in order of most tender to most hardy: Lime, Lemon, Grapefruit, Sweet Orange, Most Mandarins, Meyer Lemon, Satsuma Mandarin Kumquat

### **Citrus Are Sweet on The Heat, Not the Cold**

The most tender foliage can be damaged at temperatures of 32°F, while the most hardy citrus like the satsuma mandarin and kumquat, can stand temperatures down to 20°F. Keep in mind these trees are well established trees, not newly planted trees, and the duration of low temperatures is not sustained. Most fruit will be damaged at 26-28°F. If damaged by a frost, most citrus will still produce fruit the following year.

Citrus also need a certain level of accumulated heat in order to ripen. Since lemons are eaten for their acidic taste, they don't need the accumulated heat in order to sweeten up and are therefore suited for cool, coastal climates. Grapefruit and oranges need a high-accumulated heat and only reach peak quality in hot inland and desert areas.

## **Site Selection**

Before actually planting your citrus, make sure the site you select is appropriate for your tree. Citrus needs 8-12 hours of light per day to produce a good crop of fruit. If the tree is not receiving sufficient light, the crop will be thin or none at all. If putting into a container for indoor growth, select a southern facing window to get the most sunlight.

Before planting or potting up, try placing the tree in the desired location for a couple of weeks to see how it responds. If the tree looks unhappy, try another location.

## **Source of Article**

Cherry, M. (n.d.). How To Grow Citrus Trees. Retrieved from <http://www.groworganic.com/organic-gardening/articles/how-to-grow-citrus-trees>