

# Citrus limon

*Rutaceae*

India

Common names:

Eng: lemon; Swah: mlimao.

Ecology;

A. tree found from Assam in India and suited to sandy or loamy well-drained soils. Lemon trees will grow at higher altitudes than some other citrus but like all citrus they require a high temperature to fruit well and well-distributed rainfall. High humidity increases the risk of pests and diseases.

Uses:

Firewood (twigs, dead branches), food (fruit, jam, pickle, chutney, candied peel), drink, flavouring (peel), oil (peel), medicine (juice, roots, leaves), ornamental, perfume (oil).

Description:

A tree to 8 m, rather open, branches with stout, stiff thorns. Young plants are more thorny, especially near the centre of the tree. LEAVES: **paler green than most citrus**, sharp tipped, quite large, **edge toothed**, leaf stalk very short, wing very narrow, clear joint to blade. FLOWERS: white, solitary, petals thick and fragrant, **back of petals purple-red so buds appear purple**. FRUIT: about 7-8 cm long, ovoid, **pointed both ends**, yellow or green **wheat** ripe, rough or smooth, **flesh pale yellow with much juice** which is acid to bitter. Few seeds.

Propagation:

Seedlings, grafting.

Seed info.:

treatment:

storage:

Management:

Mixed planting with other trees that could serve as a support.

Remarks:

Lemons ripen during most of the year. They grow easily, bear fruit quite quickly and withstand drought. Rough lemon provides the best rootstock for grafting lemons, limes, grapefruit and tangerines.

