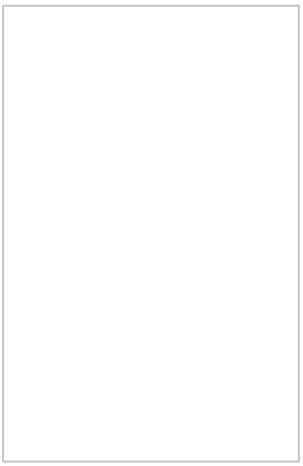
The Mandarin Orange



Theï mandarin orangeïC(*Citrus reticulata*), also known as theï mandarinï orï mandarine, is a smallï citrusï tree with fruit resembling otherï oranges.
Mandarins are smaller and oblate, rather than spherical, like the common oranges (which are a mandarin hybrid). The taste is considered less sour, as well as sweeter and stronger. A ripe mandarin is firm to slightly soft, heavy for its size, and pebbly-skinned. The peel is thin, with little white mesocarp, so they are usually easier to peel and to split into segments. Hybrids generally have these traits to a lesser degree. The mandarin is tender and is damaged easily by cold. It can be grown in tropical and subtropical areas.
According to genetic studies, the mandarin was one of theï original citrus species; through breeding or natural hybridization, it is the ancestor of manyï hybrid citrusï cultivars. With theï citronï andï pomelo, it is the ancestor of the most commercially important hybrids (such as sweet and sour oranges, grapefruit, and many lemons and limes).ï
Citrus reticulata is a moderate-sized tree some 15-25 feet (4-8 m) in height. The tree trunk and major branches have thorns. The leaves are shiny and green, rather small. The petioles are short, almost wingless or slightly winged. The flowers are borne singly or in small groups in the leaf-axils. Citrus are usually self-fertile or parthenocarpic.ï

Category: Citrus
Families: Rutaceae
Genus: Citrus
Species: reticulata
Geographical Area of Origin: South-East Asia
Climatic Zones: Sub-tropical, USDA 10 b (Southern Italy and islands)
Habit: Tree
Leaves: Semi-evergreen
Colore Foglie: Verde
Flowering Period: Settembre / Ottobre / Novembre / Dicembre

Flower: Corymb
Colore Fiori: Bianco
Favorite soil: Sub-acid / medium acid / Light sandy / Middle-Dough / Medium soil
Water needs: Medium
Light Exposure: Medium shade / Half shade / Full light / Full sun
Form: Espalier / Pyramid / Fitocella / Tree / Grown as shrub / bush
Colore Frutti: Arancione
Parfumed: yes