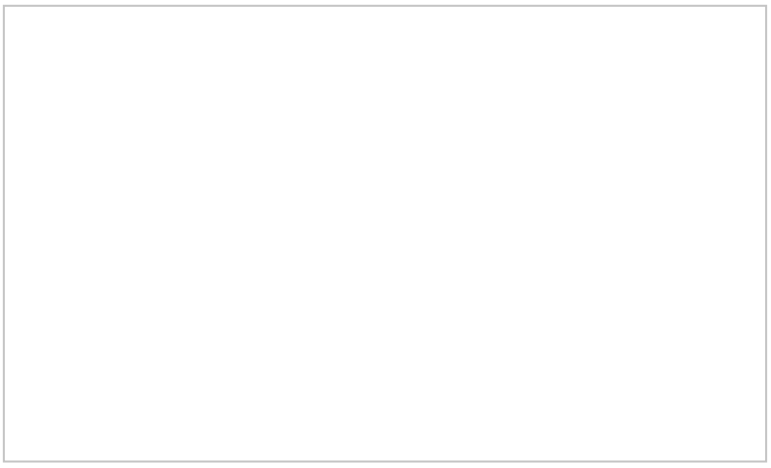
The trifoliate orange



The trifoliate orange, Poncirus trifoliata or Citrus trifoliata, is a member of the family Rutaceae. Whether the species should be considered to belong to its own genus, Poncirus or included in the genus Citrus is debated. The species is unusual among citrus for having deciduous, compound leaves and pubescent (downy) fruit.
It is native to northern China and Korea, and is also known as the Japanese bitter-orange.
The plant is a fairly cold-hardy citrus (USDA zone 6) and will tolerate moderate frost and snow, making a large shrub or small tree 4 8 m tall. Because of its relative hardiness, citrus grafted onto Citrus trifoliata are usually hardier than when grown on their own roots.
The trifoliate orange is recognizable by the large 3 5 cm (1.2 2.0 in) thorns on the shoots, and its deciduous leaves with three (or rarely, five) leaflets, typically with the middle leaflet 3 5 cm (1.2 2.0 in) long, and the two side leaflets 2 3 cm (0.79 1.18 in) long. The flowers are white, with pink stamens, 3 5 cm (1.2 2.0 in) in diameter, the leaves give off a spicy smell when crushed.
The fruits are green, ripening to yellow, and 3 4 cm (1.2 1.6 in) in diameter similar in size to a lime and resembling a small orange, but with a finely downy surface and having a fuzzy texture similar to a peach. The fruits also have distinctive smell from other citrus varieties and often contain a high concentration of seeds.
Due to its very thick foliage also provided with curved shape thorns it fits perfectly for border hedges to prevent any possible unwelcome indruder.

Category: Citrus
Families: Rutaceae
Genus: Poncirus
Species: trifoliata
Geographical Area of Origin: Eastern Asia / Far East
Climatic Zones: Mountain-Sub Alpine USDA 8 a
Habit: Shrub
Leaves: Deciduous

Colore Foglie: Verde
Flowering Period: Aprile
Flower: Raceme
Colore Fiori: Bianco
Favorite soil: Sub-acid / medium acid / Acid / Middle-Dough / Medium soil
Water needs: Medium
Light Exposure: Medium shade / Half shade / Full light / Full sun
Form: Tree
Colore Frutti: Verde ï Giallo
Parfumed: yes