

CLAYTON'S HOUSTON CITRUS BUYING GUIDE

Citrus trees typically do not grow well on their own roots, and are therefore usually grafted onto rootstocks. For the best results, selecting citrus trees grafted onto the appropriate rootstocks for your area is critical. Brief descriptions of the commonly used citrus rootstocks are given below:

Rootstock	Description
Trifoliolate (PT, TF)	The most cold tolerant rootstock available; very resistant to root rot; grows well with poor drainage and clay soil; tough and resistant to many soil diseases; produces a semi-dwarf tree. <i>Considered to be the best all-around rootstock for Houston.</i>
Flying Dragon (FD)	A more dwarfing form of trifoliolate with curved thorns and branches; produces a very slow-growing dwarf tree. Good for tight spaces, or for trees that will be grown in containers.
Carrizo Citrange	A Trifoliolate x Washington navel orange hybrid; cold tolerant, but vulnerable to rapid cold fronts and late freezes; sensitive to poor drainage. Good for trees that will be protected from hard freezes and planted in a slightly raised spot with better drainage.
Swingle Citrumelo (SW)	A Duncan grapefruit x Trifoliolate hybrid; resistant to root rot, but it gets sick in heavy clay soil; relatively cold tolerant; produces a very vigorous tree. Only recommended for trees that will be protected from hard freezes and planted in very well-drained soil.
Sour Orange	The standard rootstock used in the Rio Grande Valley because it is tolerant of salty soils; moderately cold tolerant; produces a very vigorous tree. Not recommended for Houston.
Volkamer Lemon	Natural lemon x Sour orange hybrid; highly susceptible to root rot; relatively tolerant of salty soils; produces a very vigorous tree; poor cold tolerance; produces fruit of poor quality. Not recommended for Houston.

Even though Trifoliolate is generally acknowledged to be the best rootstock for Houston, it is also the hardest to find. Many growers choose to use other rootstocks because they produce trees large enough for sale more quickly than the slower-growing Trifoliolate. I prefer to buy trees grafted onto Trifoliolate and Flying Dragon, but I will also buy trees on Carrizo Citrange. I don't recommending buying trees grafted onto other rootstocks.

Unfortunately, when buying a citrus tree it can be very difficult to find out what rootstock was used. Most growers don't list the rootstock on the label, and most nursery employees won't have any idea if you ask. By law, all citrus trees must carry a label that says "Produced in Texas", and that lists the name and license number of the nursery where the tree was grown. Often the only way to find out what rootstock was used is to contact the grower listed on the label. The following page lists the rootstocks are used by several growers that supply citrus trees to Houston area retail nurseries.

Wholesale Grower	Rootstocks Used
<u>Bob Wells Nursery</u> License #: 0309097 Phone: 903.882.3550	Trees are grafted onto Sour Orange.
<u>Brazos Citrus Nursery</u> License #: 0398916 Phone: 979.345.2906	Most trees are grafted onto Carrizo Citrange, with some on Trifoliolate. Trees grafted to Flying Dragon noted on the tag as "Dwarf". Kumquats are grafted onto Trifoliolate.
<u>Creeside Nursery</u> License #: 0249706 Phone: 979.826.2461	Trees are grafted on Trifoliolate, Flying Dragon, or Swingle Citrumelo. The rootstock may not be listed on tag.
<u>Froberg Citrus Trees</u> License #: 0471456 Phone: 281.798.6282	Trees are grafted onto Trifoliolate or Flying Dragon. Stock grafted onto Flying Dragon labeled "Dwarf".
<u>Greenleaf Nursery</u> License #: 0000608 Phone: 800.237.3147	Rio Red Grapefruit and Navel Oranges are grafted onto Sour Orange. All other citrus are grown on their own roots.
<u>John Panzarella</u> License #: 0383364 Phone: 979.297.2120	Trees are grafted onto Trifoliolate or Flying Dragon.
<u>Laughing Frog Farm</u> License #: 0525700 Phone: 713.542.6615	Trees are grafted onto Trifoliolate, and are grown using organic methods.
<u>Premier Plants</u> License #: 0611332/0465892 Phone: 956.624.0447	Trees are grafted onto Sour Orange.
<u>Ran Pro Farms</u> License #: 0000063 Phone: 903.593.7381	Lemons, Oranges, Grapefruit, and Kumquats are grafted onto Sour Orange. Mandarins/Tangerines are grafted onto Swingle Citrumelo. Limes are grown on their own roots.
<u>Raytoria</u> License #: 0465284 Phone: 956.464.4431	Trees are grafted onto Sour Orange.
<u>Rio Grande Nursery</u> License #: 0462709/0002307 Phone: 956.831.9318	Trees are grafted onto Sour Orange.
<u>Saxon Becnel & Sons</u> License #: 0466090 Phone: 504.656.7535	Trees other than kumquats are grafted onto Carrizo Citrange. Kumquats are grafted onto Volkamer Lemon. Most common supplier to big box stores.
<u>Treeseach Farms</u> License #: 0005826 Phone: 713.937.9811	Trees grafted onto Trifoliolate, Flying Dragon, or Swingle Citrumelo. Treeseach always lists the rootstock on the tag.

Contact information for growers not listed above can be found here:

<http://www.texasagriculture.gov/Portals/0/Reports/PIR/nurseryfloral.xls>