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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rootstock</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trifoliate (PT, TF)</td>
<td>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. <em>Considered to be the best all-around rootstock for Houston.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flying Dragon (FD)</td>
<td>A more dwarfing form of trifoliate 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrizo Citrange</td>
<td>A Trifoliate 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swingle Citrumelo (SW)</td>
<td>A Duncan grapefruit x Trifoliate 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sour Orange</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volkamer Lemon</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Even though Trifoliate 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 Trifoliate. I prefer to buy trees grafted onto Trifoliate 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.

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

Contact information for growers not listed above can be found here: [http://www.texasagriculture.gov/Portals/0/Reports/PIR/nurseryfloral.xls](http://www.texasagriculture.gov/Portals/0/Reports/PIR/nurseryfloral.xls)