

The grapefruit



The grapefruit (*Citrus × paradisi*) is a subtropical citrus tree known for its relatively large sour to semi-sweet, somewhat bitter fruit. Grapefruit is a citrus hybrid originating in Barbados as an accidental cross between two introduced species, sweet orange (*C. sinensis*), and pomelo (or shaddock) (*C. maxima*), both of which were introduced from Asia in the seventeenth century. Frequently, it is misidentified as the very similar parent species, pomelo.

The grape part of the name alludes to clusters of fruit on the tree that often appear similar to grape clusters. The interior flesh is segmented and varies in color from white to yellow to red to pink. The evergreen grapefruit trees usually grow to around 5–6 meters (16–20 ft) tall, although they may reach 13–15 m (43–49 ft). The leaves are glossy, dark green, long (up to 15 centimeters (5.9 in)), and thin. It produces 5 cm (2 in) white four-petaled flowers. The fruit is yellow-orange skinned and generally, an oblate spheroid in shape; it ranges in diameter from 10–15 cm (3.9–5.9 in). The flesh is segmented and acidic, varying in color depending on the cultivars, which include white, pink, and red pulps of varying sweetness (generally, the redder varieties are the sweetest).

Based on the color of the pulp there are basically two types of cultivars:

- 1) White / yellow pulp like Duncan, Oro Blanco, Thompson seedless, White Marsh;
- 2) Pinkish pulp like the Star Ruby.

Category: Citrus

Families: Rutaceae

Genus: Citrus

Species: paradisi

Geographical Area of Origin: Central America

Climatic Zones: Sub-tropical, USDA 10 b (Southern Italy and islands)

Habit: Tree

Leaves: Evergreen

Colore Foglie: Verde 

Flowering Period: Gennaio / Febbraio / Marzo / Novembre / Dicembre



Flower: Raceme

Colore Fiori: Bianco ☐

Favorite soil: Sub-acid / medium acid / Middle-Dough / Medium soil

Water needs: Medium

Light Exposure: Medium shade / Half shade / Full light / Full sun

Form: Espalier / Pyramid / Fitocella / Inverted cone / Tree

Colore Frutti: Giallo ☐ Rosa ☐

Parfumed: yes