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Cara Cara Navel Orange

Citrus sinensis 'Cara Cara'



Cara Cara Navel Orange fruit and flesh
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 12 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8b

Description:

An attractive tree that bears medium-sized orange skinned fruit with reddish-orange flesh; has a wonderful sweet flavor; a nice landscape plant, or large screen; protect from frost; great for containers



Cara Cara Navel Orange fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Edible Qualities

Cara Cara Navel Orange is a small tree that is commonly grown for its edible qualities. It produces large orange round fruit with orange flesh which are usually ready for picking from late fall to late winter. The seedlessfruits have a sweet taste and a juicy texture.

The fruit are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Cooking
- Juice-Making
- Sauces

Features & Attributes

Cara Cara Navel Orange features showy clusters of fragrant white star-shaped flowers at the ends of the branches in early spring. It has attractive dark green evergreen foliage. The glossy oval leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter. It features an abundance of magnificent orange berries from late fall to late winter.

This is a multi-stemmed evergreen tree with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition. This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds, bees and butterflies to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Cara Cara Navel Orange is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Cara Cara Navel Orange will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more.

This plant is typically grown in a designated edibles garden. It does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Cara Cara Navel Orange is a good choice for the edible garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.