

# HOW TO SWEETEN ORANGES

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To ensure a good fruit set and proper fruit development, feed the tree in this manner. Mature citrus trees need four equal feedings of 0.4 pounds of actual nitrogen fertilizer - one at the end of January, another in early March, the third in late April, and the fourth in early June - for a total of 1.6 pounds of actual nitrogen per year.

To determine the proper weight of any given type of fertilizer you want to apply, use this simple formula: divide the weight of actual nitrogen required (which is 0.4 pounds) by the percent of nitrogen in the plant food you are using. Spread the plant food around the root zone away from the trunk. It works out this way for each of the four feedings: *apply a little over 2.5 pounds of 15-15-15 fertilizer, or about 2 pounds of ammonium sulfate, or a generous pound of ammonium nitrate, or about  $\frac{3}{4}$  pound of urea fertilizer.*

Minerals are often the key to help oranges produce sweet fruit, especially copper, and Grow More Citrus Grower Blend is an excellent source of these needed minerals. Apply around the drip line twice a year, once in spring and again in fall, at the rate of four tablespoons (2 oz.) per inch of the tree trunk diameter.

For those who plan to put in a fruit tree, remember that all fruit trees produce the best quality fruit when they are grown in full sunlight. Leaves convert sunlight to sugars, and sugars promote growth and sweeten the fruit.