



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Sweet Lime

Citrus limettioides

DESCRIPTION: Sweet Lime looks like a lime, smells like a lime, but has an exceptionally sweet flavor. Also known as Palestine Sweet Lime, it is of hybrid origin, probably of Mexican-type lime and a sweet lemon or sweet citron. This vigorous grower flowers and fruits throughout the year. It is so prolific that it often flowers and fruits more than it grows. Note that this is different from the sweet lemon, *Citrus limetta*, which, in certain areas, is referred to as "sweet lime". If pollinated, the sweet smelling flowers become fruits, solitary or in bunches of two to five. The sweet lime attracts bees and is self-compatible. The fruit can be eaten fresh as well as cooked and preserved. The hand-pressed peel oil has a strong lemon odor. It contains pinene, limonene, linalool, linalyl acetate and possibly dipentene and citral.

RECOMMENDED USE: Good in a garden situation for its sweet smelling flowers.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Good to the low upper 20's.



Sun tolerance: Full sun to light shade.



Watering and feeding: Moderate water use. Fertilize as with other citrus.



Soil requirements: Prefers a deep, well-drained but moisture-retentive loamy soil. Best with a soil pH in the range 5 – 6.



Pruning: Lightly, as needed.