

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Makrut lime: aromatic double-looking leaves for sunny positions

Citrus hystrix stands out for its broadly winged leaf stalk. This small culinary plant combines unusual foliage with a citrus scent and needs a bright summer position and frost-free winter quarters.



AI-created scene based on the original shop photo. Size reference: 12 cm pot · approximately 20 cm. Decoration is not included; this is not a product photograph to scale.

Grow with knowledge.

A collection for observation and reference. Detailed explanations to help you make care decisions suited to your plant and its position.

Issue September 2026

PLANT PORTRAIT

Citrus hystrix

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Botanical classification	Citrus hystrix
Family	Rutaceae
Origin	Tropical Southeast Asia; cultivated for a long time
Delivery size	12 cm pot · approximately 20 cm
Growth and distinctive feature	Branching citrus shrub with broadly winged leaf stalks

Care at a glance

Observe, check and adapt care to the position and season. This table provides guidance for everyday practice.

Topic	What to do	Why it helps
Light	Keep sunny and warm, acclimatising slowly to outdoor light.	Citrus plants need plenty of energy for healthy growth.
Water	Let the surface compost dry slightly and supply the root ball evenly.	Strong swings between dry and wet stress the roots.
Drainage	Remove leftover water and keep drainage holes clear.	Waterlogging damages root function.
Compost	Use a freely draining citrus mix with a stable structure.	Moisture and air must remain balanced.
Feeding	During growth, follow a suitable citrus fertiliser label.	The plant needs balanced nutrients.
Harvesting	Harvest young plants sparingly and follow usage instructions.	Enough healthy foliage must remain for growth.
Winter	Keep bright and frost-free, preferably above about 10 °C for limes.	Tropical limes are sensitive to cold.
Monitoring	Watch for thorns and check leaves for sap-sucking pests.	A safe position and early checks make care easier.

Knowledge that grows

Understanding the apparent double leaf

In *Citrus hystrix*, a strikingly broad, winged leaf stalk sits below the actual leaf blade. This often makes the leaf look like two parts placed one behind the other. The aromatic leaves are valued in Southeast Asian cooking. The shop lists the plant under the trade name Kaffir-Limette; here we use makrut lime. Wrinkled fruits on older plants are another feature, but are not assumed to be present on this young shop specimen.

A young culinary plant in a pot

The linked offer states a plant in a 12 cm pot with approximately 20 cm total height. This is not a large, fruit-bearing citrus tree. The scene shows young side shoots and deliberately no invented fruit. A warm, sheltered balcony position may suit it. Branches can carry thorns, so maintain a safe distance from walkways. The outer pot and decoration are examples; current delivery details and usage instructions are in the shop.

Sun and warmth, with acclimatisation

Citrus plants need plenty of light. Introduce direct sunshine gradually after winter or transport. A warm, sheltered outdoor position is beneficial. In a small pot, the root ball can dry quickly in sun and wind. Bring the plant indoors in good time before cool autumn nights. For limes, the RHS recommends bright, frost-free winter quarters with temperatures above about 10 °C. A dark cellar is unsuitable.

Watering without extreme swings

Check the surface compost and the pot's weight. Once the surface has dried slightly, water the root ball thoroughly when needed. Excess water must drain away. Neither repeated complete drying nor constant waterlogging is beneficial. Consumption is considerably lower in winter, depending on light and temperature. Do not automatically treat yellow leaves with iron fertiliser: root problems, water quality, light and other nutrient issues may also be involved.

Compost, nutrients and gentle harvesting

Use a freely draining, structurally stable citrus or container-plant mix. During active growth, follow a suitable citrus fertiliser label. Repot only when clearly needed, without creating an oversized volume of wet compost. Initially take only a few healthy leaves from a small plant, leaving enough foliage for further growth. Use only positively identified leaves suitable for cooking and grown in accordance with product and treatment instructions; wash them before use.

Staying attentive in winter

Check leaf undersides and branches for scale insects, mealybugs and spider mites. Regular, brief observations help detect problems early, particularly in winter quarters. Ventilate appropriately without exposing the plant directly to cold draughts. Avoid hard pruning or heavy harvesting from a weakened plant. Fruit formation is a possible later development, not a measure of whether the young plant can already be enjoyed.

Pictures and details

Images and descriptions from this portrait. Decorative items are not included in the offer.



Original shop photo: makrut lime. 12 cm pot · approximately 20 cm. Natural variation is possible.



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Good to know

Why do the leaves look doubled?

The leaf stalk is broadly winged and looks like a second leaf beneath the actual leaf blade.

Does the young plant already carry fruit?

This is not promised. The offer shows a young culinary plant approximately 20 cm tall.

Can it stay outside in winter?

No. It needs a bright, frost-free position; limes are preferably kept above about 10 °C.

Can I harvest lots of leaves straight away?

Harvest a small plant sparingly at first and follow instructions for culinary use. It needs enough foliage for further growth.

The matching offer

[Plant in the shop](#)

The linked shop is in German. Product details, availability and delivery information are provided in that shop.

[Read the complete portrait in English](#)



English portrait



Shop offer (in German)