

How to care for your new citrus tree...with success!

1. **Citrus love soil that drains well.** You should not have to worry about this if you pot your new tree according to the formulated mixture that Charles (Malki) shared with me several years ago. I have included a potting diagram “**Successful Citrus Growing**” (pg. 8) that will assist in the mixing of soil and layering, thus reducing the chance of your tree’s roots standing in an “over-watered” soil, causing “wet feet” syndrome and yellow vein chlorosis (where a leaf’s central vein turns yellow with leaf eventually dropping).

A 14” container should be sufficient when first planting a premium size tree (24”-36”). As it becomes rootbound in the next 2 years or so, you will want to move up to a 16” container. Then, refer again to the “**Successful Citrus Growing**” drawing as to layering of soil and percentages of peat moss/vermiculite/perlite to use with each layer. Also, allow for good drainage in the bottom with broken clay pot pieces 1-2” in depth. Buy several small, inexpensive pots to break up...don’t use previous pots that may have possible fungal contamination from other plants.

2. **Watering citrus. Most important! When using tap water to water citrus, let tap water stand several days before using to allow chlorination to dissipate before using!** We usually fill a watering can right after we’ve watered so it can stand for several days and will be ready for next watering (to assure little or no chlorine left in water to harm tree).

It is better to underwater citrus than to overwater! However, you do not want to let the root ball go dry! A moisture meter may help determine this if in doubt. If it reads on the dry side of **MOIST** (at **3** or **4**)...(where red meets green) it is probably safe to water. (**moisture meter scale: 1 to 10, with 1 being very dry, 10 being very moist!**)

Another way to check is by lifting the pot. If it is overly heavy, don’t water. The soil mixture is light and when it dries out, you can tell! (Stick your finger down into the soil about 4” to see if it is dry.) However, *another sign of thirst is leaf curl with the outer edges of the leaves beginning*

to roll up like a cigar. When you see this, water. The best way to determine is by doing all of the above before watering just to be on the safe side!

When watering, **ALWAYS MAKE IT A THOROUGH DRENCHING!!!** The drip saucer has been provided to place underneath the container to catch any excess water! Let any water stand in the drip saucer until the next morning, then empty the drip saucer! Doesn't matter if it's 1-2 inches. This provides for any excess water to be reabsorbed back up into the soil, assuring that all roots receive a good drink! **But don't forget, the next morning, drain all water from the saucer!** During the summer we usually water 2 x per week (about every 3 days) when the trees are outside and winter, when the trees are indoors, about every 4-5 days.

KEEP MOUNDED SOIL AND WATER AWAY FROM TRUNK. Refer to diagram (pg. 9). When watering in container, it is advised to make a deeper circular ring or "channel" around base of tree, towards the outer perimeter of the container... this allows for the tree trunk to remain in dryer area of soil and lessens the chance of fungul rot (see attached diagram). **YOU DO NOT WANT TO WATER DIRECTLY ON THE LOWER TRUNK** as this will encourage and eventually induce rot! Keep it dry at all times (except for pest spraying, of course).

3. **Fertilizing citrus.** Always use **organic** fertilizer; **IV ORGANIC ALL PURPOSE FERTILIZERS, SUPER & PREMIUM BLENDS** have **ALL** Six (6) MacroNutrients plants need in abundance: **N – P – K – Mg – S – Ca** (Note: product is no longer called 6 Macros Plus). **Fertilize 3 x per year:** Spring (March) – Summer (June) – Fall (September). Use **1 Tablespoon for each 6"** of pot diameter (*I use around 3 Tbsp. for a 14", around 4 Tbsp. for a 16" container; scratch into the topsoil but not too deep and not too close to tree trunk to avoid disturbing top of root ball*). After September, do not use anymore IV Organic **ALL PURPOSE** as your tree will go dormant during the winter months...and this gives it a chance to rest and be cleansed with watering of any fertilizer build-up that may have occurred over the summer. (Check out **IVOrganic.com** for the best in citrus growing products!)

*Another application that can be applied 3-4 x year is **CALCIUM**. The best source is **egg shell!!!** Save your discarded shells (including any residue of albumin), let them dry out and when you have enough (maybe a dozen or so), crush them in a zip-lock bag to a size that can easily be spooned into a Bed, Bath & Beyond Coffee Grinder (\$19.99 purchase) and ground to face powder! **Add 3-4 Tbsps. and scratch into topsoil right before next watering...** (**CALCIUM** is noted in 4th place as a "macro" nutrient with many fertilizer manufacturers including less percentage of it in their fertilizer composite but in reality with citrus, it really falls in 3rd place and is of greater importance. Your tree sees it as N-P-**C**-K where potassium should be ranked 4th and Calcium 3rd!!!)

(* ...**NOT** necessary when using IV Organic All Purpose Fertilizer, Super or Premium blends)

4. **Acclimating to outdoors for summer sun.** Before introducing your tree to outdoors and full sun, you should give it **2 weeks of acclimation in the shade**. Find a shady spot where your tree can receive indirect light and not be in full sunlight for 1 week. During the 2nd week, slowly move the tree out into the sun a little more each day of the 2nd week. Do this by subjecting more of its branches and leaves each time! This will protect its delicate leaves from immediate sunburn.

Any time a tree is shipped or moved, it will send it into shock. Usually 2 weeks left alone, will allow it to adjust to its new environment. That's why it is critical to shade the tree the first few days you receive it (or deciding to move it outside from indoors after a period of time)!

A MUST!!! Before exposing tree to sun, paint the main trunk with **IV ORGANIC WHITE WASH** (or any of the other 3 colors offered in the 3-IN-1 product line) to protect your citrus tree's tender trunk from **DAMAGING SUNBURN**...deflecting sun's intense rays that would eventually crack the trunk. Follow directions on can. Add powder to can, fill halfway and stir. Check for consistency (You do not want the paint too thick or too runny). Probably 2/3 full will be about right. Take the brush and paint from the bottom of the trunk up into the leaf canopy so that the exposed trunk is fully covered. The can of paint, with lid resealed after use, can be left out for 2 weeks. After that, it can be stored safely in your freezer and thawed at later time for re-use; again after each use, freeze!

Also when acclimating tree to full sun and extreme heat, protect leaves by using **IV ORGANIC's 3-IN-1 PLANT GUARD READY-TO-USE SPRAY**. This is the same product as in the can but easier to apply to sensitive leaves through spray. Lightly mist the leaves to protect from sunburn and extreme heat. Follow directions on bottle.

5. **Controlling pests.** And finally, as your tree may become victim to the all-too-common **citrus pests** (mainly *mealy bugs*, *spider mites* and *scale*), **you will want to keep a close eye on tender branch surfaces** (*scale—little hard pests that look like “turtle shells”*); **where leaves attach to branches** (*looks like spun webs or lint with little moving specks*) and **sticky spots on both top and underneath sides of leaves** (spider mites and mealy bugs)!!!

If you detect any infestation, use both the **NEEM OIL EXTRACT** and **CAPTAIN JACK'S DEADBUG SPRAY (both organically safe!)** to combat these and other pests that may chose YOUR TREE as their lunch!!! These bugs can and will drain the vitality right out of your tree!

1st week...Administer 1 APPLICATION ONLY, **Neem Oil Extract** (follow ALL directions on bottle; **4 Tbsp./gallon H₂O** or **1 Tbsp./quart of water**) by spritzer bottle until top and undersides of leaves, stems and branches are covered.

2nd week...Administer 1 APPLICATION ONLY, **Captain Jack's Deadbug Spray** (follow ALL directions on spray bottle). Spray entire tree until top and underside of leaves, stems and branches are covered.

Wait 2 weeks...if pests persist, follow same application process again! This should erradicate any and all pests. Keep watch!

6. **Bringing indoors for winter.** Late Fall, when night-time temps start falling close to 54 degrees, it will be time to bring your tree indoors for its winter stay!

Place tree near window or sliding door (about 2' away) where it can receive maximum sunlight per day...but not too close to glass to get burnt by magnification of the sun coming through glass!

As our home has overhang and few windows, it is difficult for our trees to receive a lot of light so we substituted natural with artificial:

Check out: ACF Greenhouses.com

(<http://www.littlegreenhouse.com/accessory/lights2.shtml#sunled>)

Sun Blaze T5 High Output Grow Lights

This light system utilizes high output T5 fluorescent light bulbs and a highly reflective hood to provide an excellent light source for growing plants. **System includes:** Sun Blaze fixture (includes on/off switch and 12' grounded power cord), your choice of T5 fluorescent or LED bulbs, and cable hangers. Requires standard 110/120 volt outlet.



Sun Blaze 22: 23 3/4"L x 7 3/4"W x 2 1/2"H (5 lbs.)

Sun Blaze 24: 23 3/4"L x 12 1/2"W x 2 1/2"H (8 lbs.)

Sun Blaze 44: 47"L x 12 1/2"W x 2 1/2"H (15 lbs.)

****Sun Blaze 48: 47"L x 22 1/2"W x 2 1/2"H (20 lbs.) - my choice**

T5 FLUORESCENT BULBS (a regular fluorescent and not LED bulb!):

6500k bulbs are full spectrum and promote overall plant growth.

****3000k bulbs promote flowering/budding by providing higher output in the red spectrum. (For Wintering of citrus indoors!!!)**

Average bulb life is 20,000 hours.

Be observant in your watering over winter! Again, too much watering can be costly! We kept track on the calendar, marking the day we watered and then every 4-5 days checking until trees needed watering again. Counted off the days and marked so we'd know every week what day to water...had NO problems and NO leaf drop or yellow vein chlorosis! Well worth the effort when bringing citrus inside!!!

In watering, used same method...good drink of water. Let excess water collect in drip saucer and empty the following morning/day. Also, we picked up a small **"KING" Multi-Use Hand Pump at Farm King for \$6.99**. With 4 trees in the house, we needed an easy way to siphon excess water out of the drip saucers and into a 5 gal. bucket without spilling on the carpet...

Happy growing and can't wait to hear about your first lemon crop! Al & Sue (with great thanks to Charles Malki for everything he has taught us and Four Winds Growers for their beautiful citrus trees!!!)

Our Four Winds Growers Citrus... Indoors and Out!

Wintering indoors under T5 Fluorescent Grow Light (8 bulb/48"/3000K bulbs for budding/flowering) 10-20

Dwarf Lisbon Lemon tree indoors early 04-20



Dwarf Eureka Lemon tree outdoors 06-20

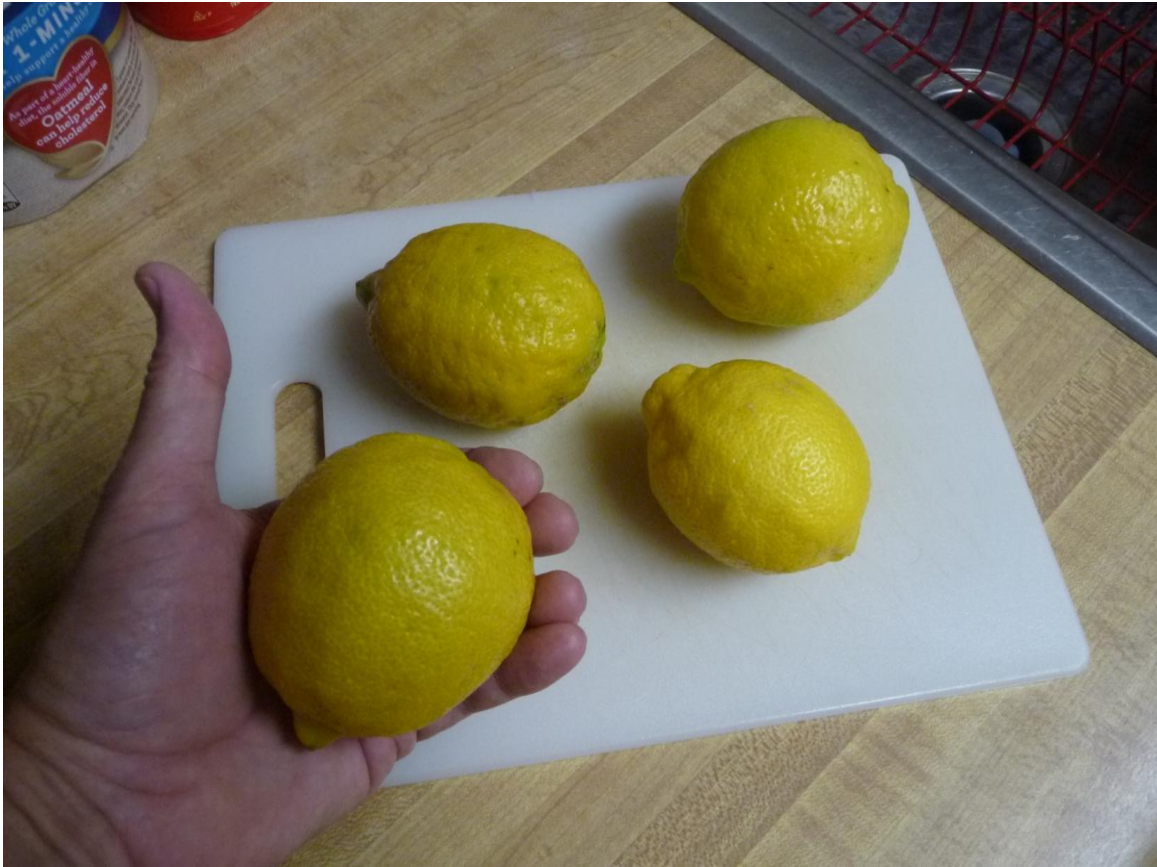


Increase in eureka lemon growth



Dwarf Washington Navel Tree outdoors early 09-20





Past Harvests - Mid November 2020

Winter harvest begins with the first 4 ripe, beautiful lemons from our 1 Eureka tree!!! They put local grocery stores' to shame in both size and taste!!!

(All of our beautiful trees are purchased from "Four Winds Growers", located in Watsonville, CA @ fourwindsgrowers.com)

3. Water tree with sprinkling can afterwards, mixed with 1 tsp. "Super Thrive" B₁ vitamin as anti-shock treatment for repotting!

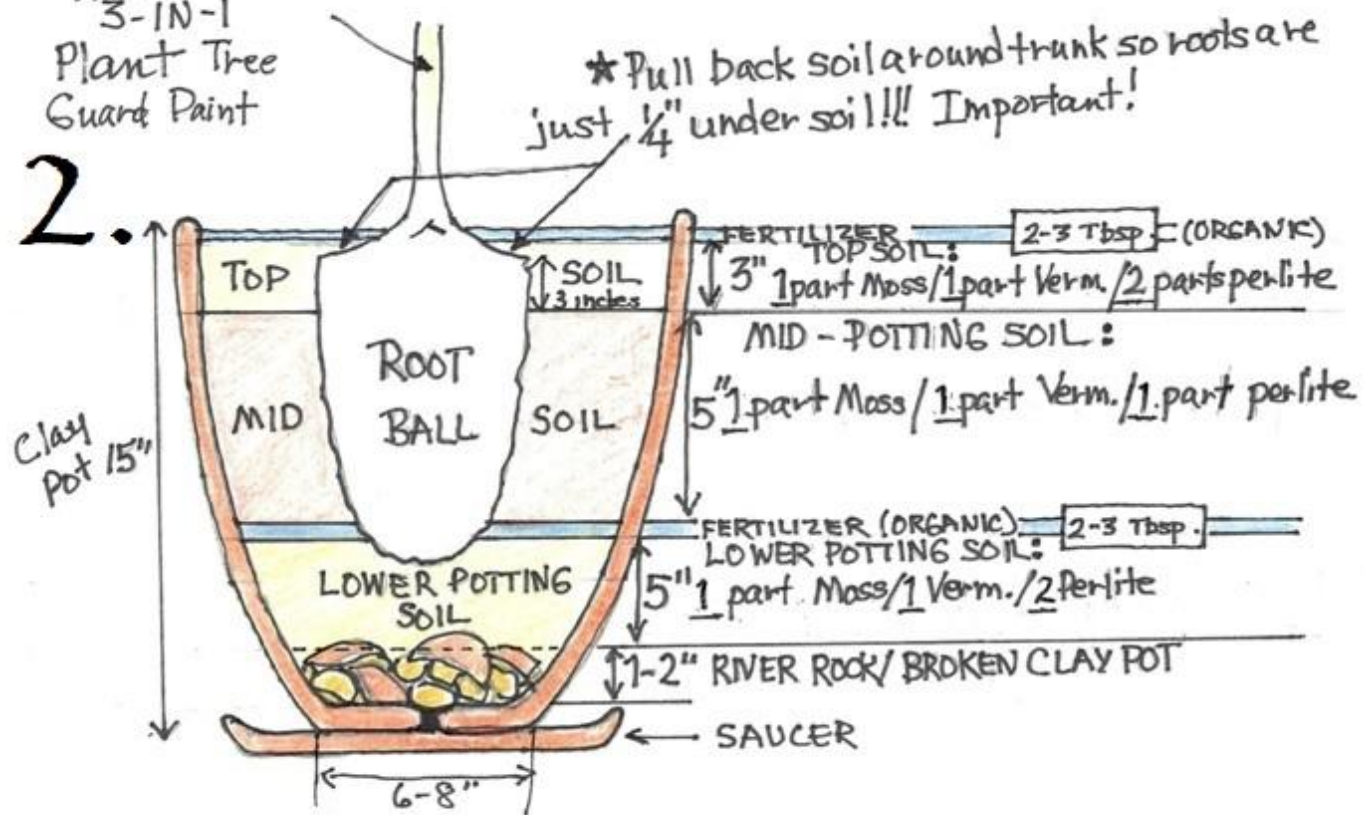
"Successful Citrus Growing"

www.IVOrganics.com

Charles Malki
Hollywood Hills, CA

Apply IV ORGANICS
3-IN-1
Plant Tree
Guard Paint

2.



1.

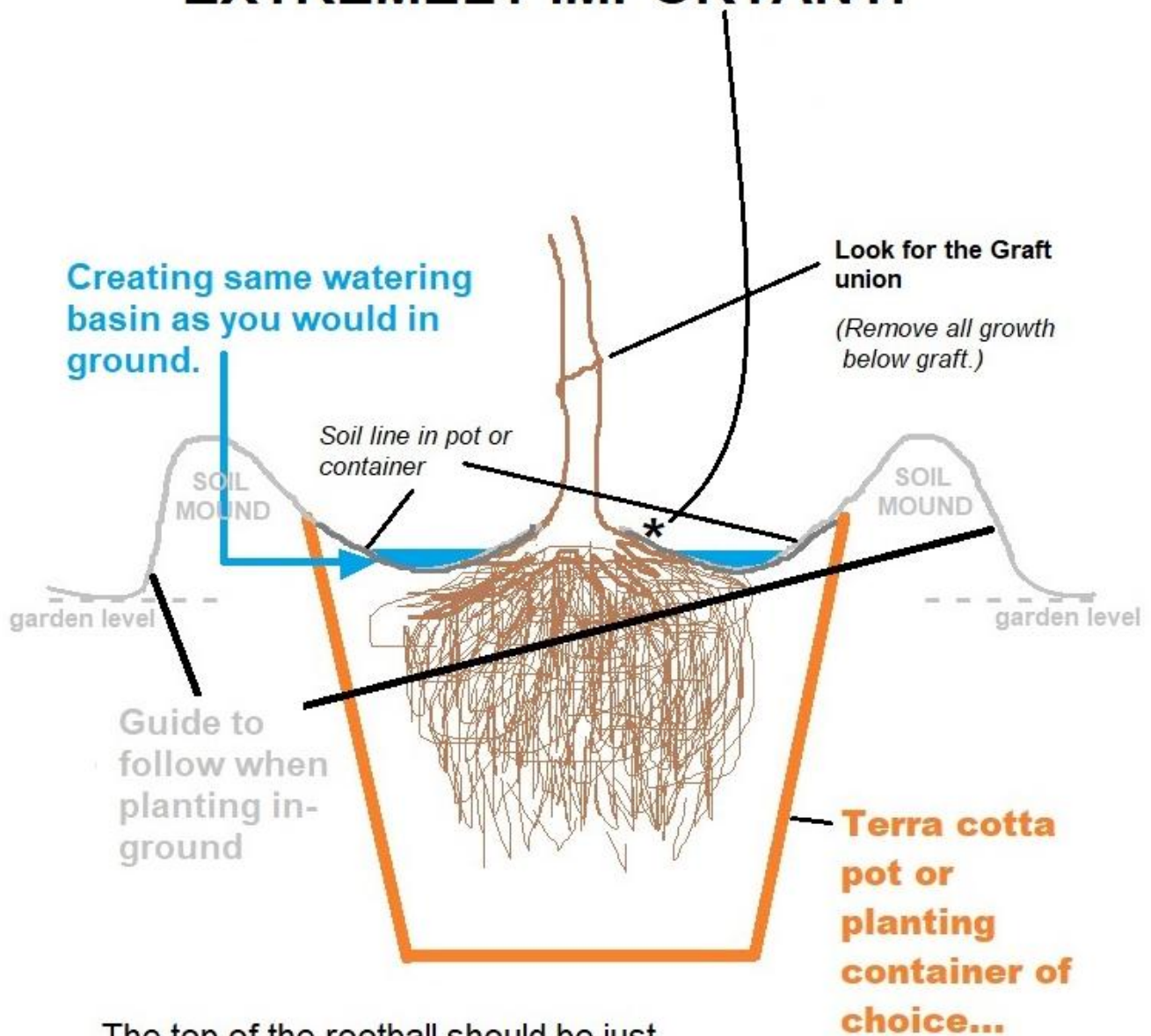
Use sprinkling can, dampen Sphagnum peat moss, vermiculite & perlite before mixing!

"Sunshine" Sphagnum Peat Moss
"Vigora" Vermiculite
"Vigora" Perlite

} potting soil mix

Willie's graphics

*CROWN ROOT PLACEMENT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT!



The top of the rootball should be just beneath the soil surface, and the crown roots '*' (root collar area) exposed just above your soil line.

CHARLES MALKI, BIOLOGIST HOLLYWOOD HILLS, CA

IV Organic All Purpose is recognized as one of the world's most versatile organic fertilizer. (1) This product contains ALL the macronutrients plants need. (2) Most versatile in that the product can be used to enrich the soil for up to 3 months in the granular form, as well as may be used as a foliar feed with more frequent application. (3) And the product is designed to feed your prized plants and trees, while improving soil conditions. NOTE: Fertilizing your plants and trees with this fertilizer, or any other product, may do best with the additional practice of composting and mulching.

A. COMPOST TEA WITHOUT COMPOST RECIPE (5 GAL BUCKET)/AS DRENCH:

Directions:

1. Apply 5 tablespoons of IV Organic **All Purpose**, with 1 cup compost, to a 5 gallon container of rain, pond or 3-day old public water.
2. Add 5 tablespoons of sugar (preferably raw/organic syrup).
3. Sink a bubbler to the bottom of the container, as used in fish tanks, to maximize aerobic (oxygen loving organisms to thrive.
4. After 2-3 days, use the solution as a drench around your favorite plants and trees.
5. Repeat these steps every 2-4 weeks during the growing season. This solution may also be used to foliar feed your plants; however, if more cups of compost are added then dilute the solution with at least 50% water prior to foliar application.

(Directions may also be found under '**COMPOST TEA**' on backside of fertilizer packaging with most up-to-date label.)

IV Organic '**All Purpose**' may also be used to '*foliar feed*' your plants...

B. FOLIAR FEED/NUTRITIONAL SPRAY DIRECTIONS UP TO 4X PER YEAR (Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter):

Directions:

1. Apply 1 tablespoon of IV Organic **All Purpose** per gallon of water for at least 1 hour.
2. Mix thoroughly.
3. Filter through a fine strainer to avoid the possibility of clogging sprayer.
4. Spray on upper & lower surfaces of leaves once per season.

The main reason for especially using a foliar spray in winter is to prevent certain 'micro' mineral deficiencies without inducing growth...

Apply as a nutritional spray on evergreen plants in the winter. All other plants Spring, Summer & Early Fall (before leaves fall).

Don't forget...IV 3-IN-1 PLANT GUARD!

- ✓ **Protects from damaging Sunburn, insects and rodents.**
- ✓ **Includes (1) seven natural oils including castor, cinnamon, clove, garlic, rosemary spearmint & peppermint and (2) diatomaceous earth!**
- ✓ **IV Organic WhiteWash is oil-free protection from damaging Summer sunburn & Winter sunscald...and has some insect repellent protection as the base ingredients include some diatomaceous earth.**