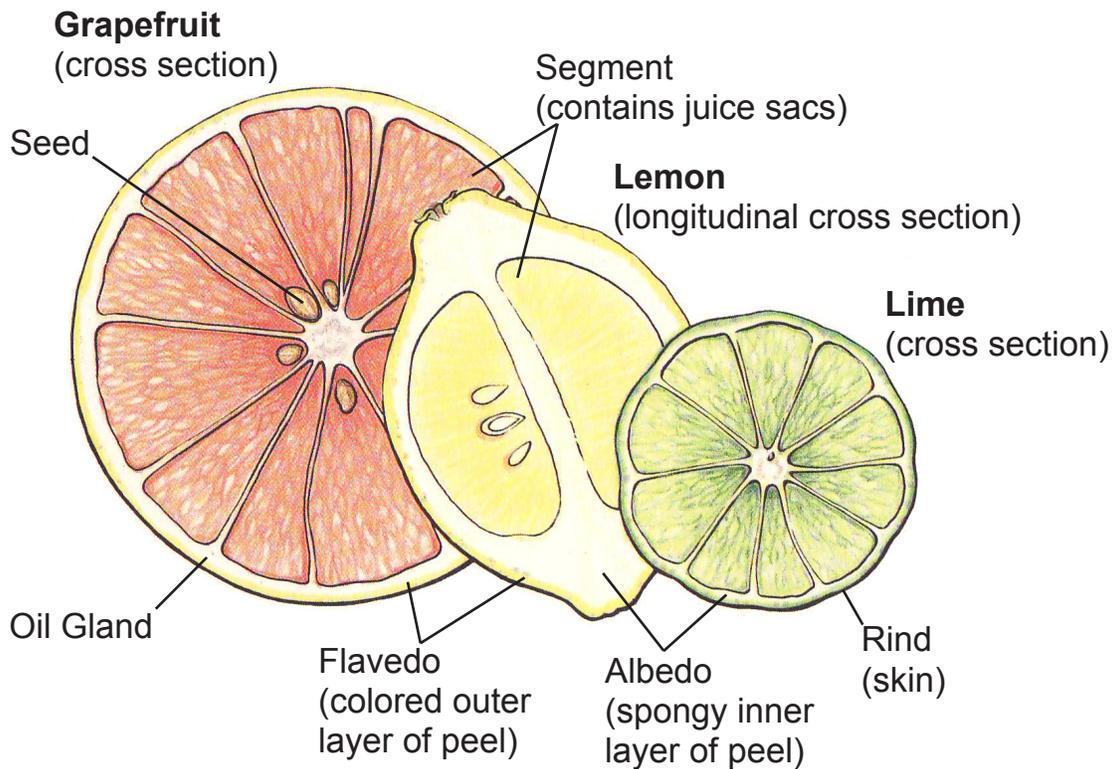




Harvest of the Month

Grapefruit



Source: *Tall and Tasty: Fruit Trees* by Meredith Sayles Hughes, Lerner Publications Company, 2000.



Harvest of the Month

How Does Grapefruit Grow?

Grapefruit trees are well-suited for warm, subtropical climates. California's climate, fertile soil, and diverse land resources allow for year-round production of many citrus varieties, including grapefruit. Grapefruit can grow on a range of soil types from clay to alkaline to acidic soils, but do best in soils that are a mixture of clay, silt, and sand.

Grapefruit trees grow from 30 to 50 feet tall. Growers may prune trees to limit the height to 15 to 25 feet for easier harvesting. The trees produce four-petaled, white flowers. Temperature affects the length of time it takes from flower blossom to fruit maturity. For example, in the cooler area of Riverside, it can take up to 13 months. In the warmer, desert area of the Imperial Valley, it takes about eight months. Citrus trees never go dormant, but their root systems become inactive when ground temperatures drop below 50 F. Drought conditions can have the same impact. Grapefruit are picked when fully ripe.

Climate	Warm, subtropical
Soil	Deep, loam; pH level between 6.0-8.0
Sunlight	Full sun
Irrigation	Well-drained, weekly; rainfall of 36-44 inches annually
Harvested	When fully ripe*; manual picking (by hand) or mechanical (by shaking)

*Sometimes ripe fruit are left on the trees for months until they begin to fall from the trees. This late harvesting technique can have an adverse effect on the number of fruit produced the following year.

For more information, visit:

www.cfaitc.org/GardenGuide/pdf/GardenGuidePart3.pdf

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/easygardening/pepper/pepper.html>