

Emerald Goddess Gardens

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Botanical Name	Cestrum aurantiacum
Common Name	Orange Zest or Orange Peel Cestum
Mature Size	6 ft
Bloom Color	Bright Orange Yellow
Bloom Period	Cyclic
Boom Form	Trumpet Shaped Clusters
Water	Moderate
Light	Full Sun
USDA Zone	Zone 8 to 11
Fragrance	Light Citrus
Uses	Mixed Perennials
Special Features	Showy Repeat Bloomer



The *Cestrum aurantiacum* or Orange Zest, also known as the Orange Peel Jessamine or Jasmine; is a quick, upright growing, flowering semi-tropical shrub. Although it is commonly called a Jessamine or Jasmine, it is actually a member of the *Cestrum* species (same species as the better known Night Blooming Jasmine Plant).

Showy, long lasting clusters of bright orange tubules tipped in sunny yellow begin to peek from small oval green leaves and thin, willow limbs in the early spring to summer, depending on the climate. Hummingbirds and butterflies frequently show up to check them out as soon as the buds begin to appear as if eagerly anticipating the nectar banquet that will be coming soon.

The Orange Zest *Cestrum* has no fragrance during the day, however as soon as the sunsets, the sweet, citrus fragrance begins to float through the warm night air.

It is an easy to grow, and relatively carefree plant, needing little more than the basic care and pruning after flowering to control size and legginess.

Direct planting of 4 inch starter size plants is not recommended, so for the best results we suggest potting the new starter into a new pot and allowing the root system to better develop and the plant to grow a bit larger.

When the new pot has filled with roots and is ready to be planted, here are a few hints for successful growing within the recommended USDA Zone Range.

- Plant in fertile, well draining soil.
- Locate in full sun to very light shade.
- Feed a high quality slow release fertilize with the initial planting and yearly thereafter.
- Prune lightly and often when young to establish body and branching.
- Provide supplemental irrigation, but take care not to over water.
- Plant early in the season in Zone 8 and 9A and mulch heavily well ahead of first frost.

For quick answers to your growing or planting questions, just email us at emeraldgoddessgardens@gmail.com

If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Care of Your New Plant

Here are a few basic guidelines for handling and caring for your new plant:

Direct planting of 4 inch starter size plants or plugs directly into the landscape is not recommended, with a few exceptions. So, for the best results with your new plant we suggest that it be repotted into a larger pot and allowed to grow larger until the new pot is filled with roots before setting out.

Check the recommended USDA Zone Range for the plant. Many gardeners are able to successfully grow plants outside their recommended Zones, but this is dependent upon providing the type of environment and care the plant needs.

- Immediately repot the new plant into a 6 inch to 10 inch diameter pot (a 6 inch pot is the recommended size for starter plugs) that can drain easily and thoroughly.
- Use a good quality commercial potting media.
- Apply a high quality, slow release plant food according to the label directions. Do not use hot, all chemical fertilizers like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Locate so that the plant can receive direct, full spectrum light for several hours daily, but is protected from hot, direct afternoon sun.
- Maintain consistent and uniform moisture in the soil. Take care not to over water.
- Packing crystals may be reused to conserve water, but do so with caution as they hold 6000 times their weight in water.
- If reusing the crystals, mix and incorporate them thoroughly throughout the potting media.
- Be sure the pot can drain and that the bottom of the pot does not sit submerged in water for more than a few hours.
- Supplement feed with a water soluble plant food every 2-3 weeks according to the label directions.
- Prune or pinch lightly and often when the plant is young and actively growing to strengthen the central stalk and encourage branching and build uniform shape.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly.
- Protect from frost and freeze, as even cold tolerant plants can be damaged by cold, and tropicals will perform better, flower earlier, and live longer within their Zone Range when protected from cold temperatures.

Many tropical and subtropical plants can be grown as potted plants indefinitely, and can be successfully wintered over indoors in colder climates, so long as they are moved indoors well ahead of temps into the 30°F's, are maintained in warm environment (minimum 40°F) with adequate, full spectrum light, consistent soil moisture is maintained, and any pest or disease issue are promptly and properly addressed.

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