



Urban Harvest
Gardening for good.

Coffee Tree

Category:	Evergreen, tropical
Hardiness:	Not winter hardy; protect at 30°F
Fruit Family:	N/A
Light:	Shade, filtered sun, morning sun, no full sun
Size:	3'-8' H x 4'-6' W, as trained
Soil:	Compost-based potting soil
Planting:	Spring, after danger of frost has passed



Coffee is a beautiful plant with glossy evergreen foliage and fragrant white flowers.

Care of Coffee Trees

Planting: Coffee trees should be grown in containers since they must be protected from freezing and protected from harsh sun. Containers allow for repositioning when necessary. Use a peat-free, compost-based potting soil that has expanded shale or angular sand for aeration and drainage. It should also have a mineral component. Do

not over-pot coffee trees. Step them up slowly into increasingly larger containers. A 20-gal container can be their permanent home.

Pruning & Training: Coffee trees should be pruned to a practical size for their container. Tipping back young trees regularly will produce a full, bushy plant. Coffee produces fruit on new wood. Once they are producing, thin stems that bloomed previously to rejuvenate the plant, but do not tip back all new growth. Coffee plants are tolerant of pruning and an occasional major cutting back will not harm the plant. Always remove suckers at the base of the plant.

Production: Coffee trees will produce 2 – 3 years from planting. The trees will bloom when the temperatures are between 65°F and 85°F and day length is 10 hours. A healthy, happy coffee tree will produce 1.1/2 – 2# of green coffee beans.

Watering: Coffee trees should never dry out, but they should not remain soggy at any time. Water thoroughly once a week with lukewarm water. Make sure the container is well-drained.



Fertilizing: Use slow release organic fertilizers every two months from March to September. The amount used should match the container size, which will be indicated on the bag. Coffee trees require

a variety of minerals – select a brand of fertilizer with a mineral component. Synthetic fertilizers can affect the flavor of coffee. Young trees (first year and less than 5-gal) will benefit from extra nitrogen which can be supplied using liquid fish fertilizers. Once they reach their mature size, extra nitrogen is not required.

Harvesting: Ripe coffee fruits are called “cherries”. Each will produce 2 beans. They will ripen slowly over a period of about 5 – 6 months. Pick when dark red. The cherries do not ripen at the same time; harvest a few each week. A gentle twist should remove the cherry. Squeeze the beans out of the cherry. Soak in water for 24 hours to remove remaining pulp. Wash and dry on paper towels. It will take about a week for them to dry sufficiently to store or roast.

Pests: Coffee trees are not usually bothered by pests.

Winter Protection: Coffee will not tolerate freezing and will defoliate with just 3 – 4 hours of exposure to frost. Protect before 30°F.

Varieties of Coffee for the 2018 Sale

Arabica

Varieties of Coffee for Southeast Texas

Coffee, Arabian: (*Coffea arabica*) – An attractive evergreen bush or small tree with glossy, dark green leaves. Fragrant white flowers will bloom in May - June. Coffee “cherries” are ripe when fully red. Normally reaching 10’ – 15’ tall and wide, the tree can be maintained at about 6-feet for ease of winter protection. Coffee prefers filtered sun. Provide additional shade when temperatures exceed 80°F. Coffee requires a rich, organic growing medium that is moist, but well-drained. It will produce 2 – 3 years from planting (3 – 4 years old). Self-fertile. Will not tolerate freezing temperatures - protect at 30°F.