

**E R G O F I T O   I N   A C T I O N**

Give Nature What Nature Wants

## Litchi Trees



ERGOFITO

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## **Cultivation of litchis**

### **Temperature and humidity**

- The average maximum temperature in the litchi-producing areas should be at least 73° F during spring, with a relative humidity of 50 % and higher.
- The average monthly minimum temperature in areas where litchis are produced should be above 42° F. Areas where heavy frost occurs are not suitable for litchi production. It should, however, be cold and dry enough in winter to ensure good dormancy.
- The minimum temperature in some areas does not drop low enough in winter to give the trees the proper dormancy period. Trees can be forced into dormancy by withholding water/irrigation during the 3 coldest months of the year. Producers must, however, ensure that especially young trees do not dry out.

### **Soil**

- Litchis grow very well, especially in sandy soil in the cooler subtropical areas. However, the trees also grow and produce well in clay soil in warmer areas.
- Litchis are well adapted to different soil types.

### **Water supply**

- Because of the varying root distribution in different soils (deep in sandy soils, shallow in clay soils) water is very important for the optimum development of the plant.
- In sandy soils short irrigation cycles with small quantities of water are usually effective.
- In clay soils water is available for longer periods, but it is important that the soil does not become too wet or too dry.

### **Drainage**

- Poorly drained soil or soil with impenetrable layers shallower than 3 feet below the surface is not suitable for litchis.
- Although gravelly or rocky soils drain well, these do not supply enough water to the trees because of poor water holding capacity. Good irrigation practices, such as wetting the soil more frequently with small quantities of water will make these soils more suitable.

### **Water requirements**

- Litchi trees need regular watering and therefore it is essential that enough water must be available from the flowering stage until after the February/March flush following the harvest.

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- Because the edible portion of the litchi fruit has a water content of 86 %, the availability of water remains important during the development period.
- A water shortage will delay development of the fruit and adversely affect the size, mass and quality of the litchis.
- Irrigation must continue after harvesting to ensure that a normal growth flush occurs during October/November, just before the beginning of the dormant period.
- During dormancy (winter) irrigation should be reduced, but the tree should not suffer drought.
- Young trees that are not producing yet are irrigated throughout the year.
- Producers normally stop irrigating the trees during the coldest months of the year (January/February) so that they can have a proper dormant period. In areas where it is never very cold, irrigation should stop to force the trees into dormancy.

### **GROWING LITCHI TREES:**

Growing Litchi trees will benefit from a balanced rhizosphere with the correct beneficial microbial activity.

#### **Yearly application:**

Apply once a year on the ground around the tree, in the diameter of the canopy.

<b>Bio Agent</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Area</b>
<b>ErgostartBio</b>	<b>125Kg</b>	<b>Per Hectare</b>

*The above is applied with sufficient water, generally diluted 1:50, (1Kg of product per 50 liters of water).*

**ErgostartBio** will immediately start decomposing all inert organic matter into plant food. More important it will de-mineralize any accumulation in the rhizosphere that is and has suffocated the soil.

It will start by converting all of the above into humus, thus rejuvenating tired soils and allow normal and healthy roots development.

#### **Yearly or bi-yearly application:**

Apply the following on the ground around the tree in the diameter of the canopy:

<b>Bio Agent</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Area</b>
<b>Ergofito Universal Plus</b>	<b>30 Kg</b>	<b>Per Hectare</b>

*The above application will ensure a superior growth and a strong preventive defense against plant sicknesses and parasitic attacks.*

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