Washington Navel orange

To successfully plant a **Dwarf Washington Navel Orange** tree into the ground in **Perth, WA**, you need to follow a heavily enriched soil process. Because it is a dwarf variety, it will grow into a compact, manageable tree (around 1.5 to 2 metres tall), making it perfect for smaller garden spaces, but its shallow citrus root system still needs immediate protection from the nutrient-poor, drying nature of Bassendean dune sand.

The exact product you need to buy (you can buy from **Bunnings Warehouse)** to amend your soil is the **Scotts Osmocote Citrus & Fruit Premium Potting Mix**.

Exact Step-by-Step Planting Instructions

Because you are working with a dwarf tree, creating an open, rich, nutrient-dense "basin" in your sandy soil is the secret to getting sweet, juicy oranges early on.

1. **Select a Position that will get as much Full-Sun as possible:** Protect the tree from strong, salty, or drying winds, if possible, as high winds can strip the flowers and young fruit off the branches.

2. **Dig a Wide, Shallow Basin:** Dig a hole that is **twice as wide** as the nursery pot, but the same depth as the pot.

3. The 50/50 Native & Premium Blend: Mix 50% of your excavated native sand with 50% of the Scotts Osmocote Citrus & Fruit Mix right next to the hole. To give the sand extra structural "body" and water retention, aggressively blend a few big shovelfuls of composted cow manure or organic compost into this mix.

4. **Set the Depth and Backfill:** Place the tree in the hole. The top of the root ball must sit **level with, or slightly higher (2 cm) than, the surrounding natural ground level**. Never bury the trunk or the graft union, as this introduces collar rot and will eventually kill the tree. Pack your 50/50 soil blend firmly around the roots to eliminate air pockets.

5. **Water In with Seaweed Solution:** Immediately water the tree deeply. Drenching it with a seaweed tonic like Eco-Organic Garden Eco-Seaweed from Bunnings will significantly minimize transplant shock and encourage rapid root exploration. **You can simply, soak the roots in WATER asap for an hour before planting and forgo Seaweed Solution**.

6. **Mulch Heavily:** Apply a **5 to 7 cm layer of lupin mulch or coarse woodchips** across the entire planting footprint to keep the soil cool and moist. Always keep the mulch a clear 5 cm away from the bare bark of the trunk.

