



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1981

TAMPA BAY CHAPTER of the
RARE FRUIT COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL, Inc.

NEXT MEETING.....SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1981 at 2:00 PM

MEETING PLACE.....HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS CENTER
5339 STATE ROAD 579, SEFFNER
TAKE EXIT 8 SOUTH OFF I-4

PROGRAM....."TROPICAL FRUITS OF TROPICAL AMERICA" by TOM ECONOMOU
Tom has been with us before, giving a program with
Crafton Clift on one of the Council tours to Colombia.
Tom is familiar to some of our members for his Botanical
Tours to Central and South America. He has given a
number of very interesting programs to the Miami and
Palm Beach Councils. He lives in Miami.

Of course the big news for this issue is the result of our Second Annual Plant Sale held on Sunday, October 18th at the Florida State Fair Grounds in Tampa. As anyone who was there can attest, it was an unqualified success. According to Paul Rubenstein the gross for the afternoon was in excess of twenty thousand dollars. We won't know how much of that is going to be the chapter's net for another week or two. At any rate, Paul certainly achieved all goals set beforehand. The fairgrounds proved to be an excellent location, the public showing up in force. The spectacle at the opening whistle was awesome, to say the least. Many hundreds of people who had been contained just inside the door for up to an hour broke for the merchandise like the settlers in the Oklahoma Land Rush. It would seem that this sale were an idea whose time has come here in the Bay Region. It was not accomplished without a heck of a lot of hard work before and during, especially before. As always, we could have used help from more of the members. Next year we must find a way to get more participation since Paul has given notice that he has other commitments. As of now the jobs of Sale Chairman and Publicity Chairman are open for next year. Who's willing?

As is done in Miami and Palm Beach, we would like to make the Fruit Display and Tasting Table and the Plant Exchange & Auction major highlights of each meeting. It is felt that member interest could be improved if we follow through on this. The best way one can tell if he or she wants to grow a certain fruit is to have the experience of eating it. Few of our fruit are available any other way except through member generosity. Likewise, plants we propagate may be the only available specimens as far as most members are concerned. Commercial nurseries, especially in Central Florida (Reasoner's and a handful of small operators being the exceptions), simply do not carry the unusual fruit trees - not even the specialty citrus. So, now that our sale is over, please bring plants to the meetings - and fruit, too.

NEW MEMBER

Dr. Lyman O. Warren, 7215 - 4th Avenue, North, St. Petersburg 33710 (Tel. 345-7398)

ADDRESS CHANGE

Luis D. & Luz M. Coton, P.O. Box 22807, Tampa 33622

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 30, 1981

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance Brought Forward.....	\$1469.97
Receipts.....	Dues.....\$30.00
	Plant Sales..... 35.00
	"NOW" Interest... 29.02
	Total Deposits..... 94.02
Disbursements...Postage & Printing.....	\$75.00
	Program Expenses..... 75.00
	Plant Sale Flyers..... 20.00
	Total Disbursements..... 170.00
Checking Account Balance.....	\$1393.99

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Balance Brought Forward.....	\$3696.78
Bank Interest.....	11.20
Savings Account Balance.....	\$3707.98

Irene Rubenstein, TreasurerREPORT OF OCTOBER 4, 1981 MEETING

President Bill Lester opened the meeting at 2:00 PM. A motion was passed shifting our regular meeting date to the SECOND Sunday of each month beginning with January 10, 1982. The coming November and December meetings will be held on the first Sundays as originally scheduled.

Another motion was passed concerning incentive discounts for members and non-members working at the Plant Sale. These incentives were detailed in the October newsletter. Also passed was a motion to contract for ten young men of the Temple Terrace Police Explorers to help transport purchased plants to customers' vehicles.

It was announced that the Chapter has paid for a membership (\$15.00 annual) in the Florida State Horticulture Society. The balance of the business meeting was devoted to details of the Plant Sale preparations.

The 94th Annual Meeting of the Florida State Horticulture Society will be held November 4-7, 1981 at the Dutch Inn Resort Hotel, Lake Buena Vista, Host Community to Walt Disney World. The preregistration fee will be \$17.00. Our own Tommy Hughes will be giving a paper entitled "Florida's Grape Industry - A Sleeping Giant" on Friday morning, November 6th.

CHRISTMAS BARGAIN ** SHOP EARLY

Betty Dickson reports that we have a number of unsold books leftover from the Plant Sale. She will bring them to the next two meetings for members to purchase at 20% off list prices:

YOU CAN GROW TROPICAL FRUIT TREES by Robert Mohlenbrock, \$3.95 : Gives history, growth form, flowers, fruit, seeds, varieties, climate & soil, culture and uses of 26 different fruits.

FRUITS FOR SOUTHERN FLORIDA, A HANDBOOK FOR THE HOMEOWNER by David Sturrock, \$7.95 : One of the 'bibles' of the Florida rare fruit grower (along with Popenoe's Manual). Comprehensive.

DICTIONARY OF TREES, FLORIDA AND SUBTROPICAL by Fred Walden, \$2.95 : Includes many of our fruit trees. Illustrated with line drawings of trees, foliage & fruit.

MAURICE'S TROPICAL FRUIT COOKBOOK by Maurice de Verteuil, \$2.95 : A Mensa explorer and adventurer gathers excellent recipes from around the world. French fried oranges?

TROPICAL FRUIT DESSERTS by Beverly Kling Mohlenbrock, \$1.95 : Beverages, breads, cakes, cookies, cobblers, pies, salads, good basics.

LIVING OFF THE LAND by Marian Van Atta, \$1.95 : A must for armadillopepper, barbequed wild hog, chicken-fried rattlesnake and turtle pie. Of course, there are the more prosaic recipes, as: cooked swamp cabbage, carissa vegetable mold, papaya upside-down cake, surinam cherry leather and persimmon beer. There are plenty more to tell you what to do with your sea grapes, calabazas, jicamas, guavas, mangos, etc.

Conclusion of September 13, 1981 Program by Gene Joyner

INSECT PESTS AND DISEASES OF FRUIT TREES

Scale Insects include several varieties, all being sucking insects, feeding on plant juices. Soft Brown Scale feed along the veins of leaves, stems and sometimes directly on the fruit. Citrus Snow Scale occur on many tropical fruits and is a particular pest of peach and nectarine trees, being found on the trunk and branches. There can be a very heavy buildup and small trees under 2" caliper may be killed and branches lost on larger trees. Control is difficult, requiring repeated sprays. Dormant oil spray is used on some trees.

Mealy Bug is a sucking insect fond of getting into clusters of fruit. They secrete a white fluffy cottony material that they lay their eggs in and also hide in. They are quite mobile and can range over the entire tree and even into the root system of a potted plant. They are common on ornamentals as well as fruit trees. For control use any general purpose insecticide.

Mites are mostly too small to see without magnification. They are related to spiders. You can detect them by the symptoms shown by the plant. Broad leaf plants exhibit a bleaching or stippling appearance of their foliage. Sometimes they are visible as small specks, like dust. Try shaking or tapping onto white paper. They are worst in the fall and winter dry season and can go from egg to adult in less than 7 days. Each female can lay several hundred eggs, so you can see how small trees may be defoliated or even killed. Kelthane is a specific and oil spray is also effective.

Chewing insects like the Orange Dog Caterpillar are fond of the White Sapote and citrus. It has the appearance of a bird dropping and just behind the head has two red scent glands capable of releasing a foul odor to discourage predators. It is not dangerous, but can do a lot of damage to the tree. Control by hand picking or spray with Sevin or Diazinon. This caterpillar is the larva of the Giant Swallowtail Butterfly (yellow and black and up to 6" wingspread).

Saddleback Caterpillar. This is one that can strike back, often found on the undersides of leaves. When brushed against, the stinging hairs on the ends and sides of this pest break off and inject their poison into the skin. For some victims the pain may last several hours. This caterpillar is flattish, about one inch long with brownish ends having fleshy projections bearing the nettling hairs. The middle is an attractive light green with a round brown spot resembling a saddle on a saddle blanket. Although it is more numerous in the warm months, it may be found all year round.

Io Caterpillar. This one can also inflict pain if touched. It is larger, about 2" to 2½" long, pale green with red and white stripes the length of its body. It is covered with nettling spines. Mainly a nocturnal feeder, it does not become active until the

cool of the evening. They are capable of considerable damage, even stripping a small tree overnight if there are enough caterpillars on it. They are especially fond of litchi trees. The best control is spraying with Sevin for both Saddleback and Io.

Beetles are more numerous than all other types of insects put together. They come in all shapes, sizes and colors. They have varying host preferences. Some feed on only one type of plant and even on only one part of the plant. They might be strictly foliage feeders, flower feeders, some are boring types or perhaps stem eaters. Other than borers, general purpose insecticides may be used for control as with other insect pests. Some feed at night so that a stomach poison such as Sevin or Thuricide must be employed on the host plant in order that they will ingest it and die later.

Grasshoppers may occasionally be numerous enough to be a problem. The Lubber Grasshopper is large enough to consume significant amounts of the foliage of small plants and require control. The adult is best killed by crushing. The young are usually found in groups and may be sprayed with malathion or general purpose insecticides.

Fruit Flies are becoming a well publicised problem in some areas. Damage by the Caribbean Fruit Fly is evidenced by fruit drop. Examination of the fruit reveals a pin-sized hole with a rotted area around it. Opening up the fruit reveals tiny white maggots. The female fly lays its eggs in ripe fruit so that fruits which will ripen off the tree should be picked early to avoid this problem. The Caribbean Fruit Fly is slightly smaller than the common housefly, has a light brownish body, mottled wings and resembles the Mediterranean Fruit Fly somewhat. The range of the Carib Fly is as far north as Jacksonville, making it a statewide problem. It has over 100 known hosts including most of the tropical fruits. Surinam cherries, peaches, guavas, Rose Apples and loquats are particular favorites. After a bad winter freeze the onset of the fly may be delayed until later in the year, but in a mild year, the fly may create problems as early as February. There is no control at this time. Host specific parasitic wasps have been introduced and released, but the results have been disappointing.

Use of chemical controls: BE SURE TO READ THE LABEL. Follow the recommended dilution where applicable. Even if you have used the same chemical for years, check the label since the manufacturer may have changed the concentration. Spraying with a solution that is too strong may injure your plants. Some plants cannot tolerate some sprays, as, for example, papayas and malathion. Be sure to spray in the early morning or late afternoon when the plant surfaces are cooler (below 85 F. is recommended). Usually these periods are when the wind is at a minimum so that the spray won't be spread to plants you don't want treated.

Be sure dangerous chemicals are stored out of reach of children and pets. It is illegal to store chemicals in other than their original labelled containers. Keep containers out of the direct sun and away from heat. Most of the concentrated liquids will store for 4 to 5 years under the right conditions. Wettable powders are not much good beyond 2 to 3 years due to moisture penetration of the cartons. Once opened, powders should be put into a larger container with an airtight lid. Do not mix up too much spray at one time. Once the chemical is diluted it begins to break down and may lose 50% of its effectiveness within the first 24 hours. For example, if you were to make up 5 gallons and use only one, the following week you could do as much good spraying with plain water as in using another gallon of the old mix. MIX ONLY WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO USE IMMEDIATELY. Not following this rule accounts for much of the blame attached to "poor chemicals" or "the store keeping it on the shelf too long." Preferably store in a locked cabinet if possible.

THE JAPANESE PERSIMMON

by Dr. R.J. Knight, Jr.
USDA SMRS, Miami

Diospyros kaki, the Japanese Persimmon or kaki, probably originated in China, although wild or naturalized trees occur in northern Korea and on the three southernmost islands of Japan. It is even found in the wild in Vietnam. Also called Oriental Persimmon, it is often referred to as simply "persimmon". D. kaki is the only persimmon species grown on a large scale for its fruit.

The kaki, considered by the Japanese to be their finest pomological product, was first introduced into the US in 1856 when Commodore Perry sent seeds from Japan to a friend. The first imported cultivars, however, were successfully established here over 100 years ago, but 50 years after culture began in the south of France. This subtropical fruit has been introduced into North Africa, India and Queensland, Australia. It is grown commercially in Israel and, although not commercially important in Mexico, it is grown there under the spanish name of persimonia (a.k.a. caqui, diospiro and placaminero in other spanish speaking countries). The kaki has been introduced to Brazil where new commercial cultivars have been developed, such as "Dr. Rigatano" (IAC 8-4) and "Campina" (IAC 2-4). In the US, early plantings were mostly in Florida, Louisiana and California. By 1930 the states with the most kaki trees were California, Florida, Alabama and Texas, in that order.

The kaki is a deciduous tree adapted to subtropical or warm temperate conditions. It especially thrives where cotton is a successful commercial crop, i.e., in the southern states and California. Most cultivars will not survive winter temperatures below -12 C. (10 F.), but a few will withstand -18 C. (0 F.). Trees are successful in S.E. Virginia adjacent to the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, but are not hardy enough for the Washington, D.C. area. Central California and northern Florida seem to be the best locations. More than 80 years ago "Bennett" originated as a seedling in Newark, N.J. and is touted for its hardiness. "Okame" and "Peiping" are similarly rated and exist in collections in Pennsylvania.

Persimmons tolerate a wide range of soils provided they are well drained. Rootstocks commonly used are D. kaki, D. lotus and D. virginiana, the latter being the most popular in the southeast. Cross pollination is necessary for fruit production in many cultivars. Working with persimmons in north Florida, H.N. Mume discovered differences in flowering behavior in various cultivars, which he divided into 3 groups: (1) "Pistillate Constants", producing only pistillate (female) flowers - examples being "Tanenashi", "Hachiya", "Tsuru", "Tamopan", "Hyakume" and "Triumph". (2) "Staminate Sporadics" producing mostly pistillate flowers but with occasional staminate (male) flowers - an example is "Okame". (3) "Staminate Constants" regularly producing male flowers. The best known example is "Gailey". For every 7 or 8 cultivars needing pollination one "Gailey" should be planted to ensure productivity. Environment also has an effect for in California persimmons may set fruit parthenocarpically. Thus, trees are actually protected from pollen exposure there as seediness could result.

Persimmon cultivars also were grouped by Mume according to their flesh color as a result of pollination. (1) "Pollination Constants" (PC), having light colored flesh regardless of pollination and resultant seed content. Examples are "Fuyu", "Hachiya", "Tanenashi", "Tamopan", "Triumph" and "Tsuru". (2) "Pollination Variants" (PV), having light colored flesh when unpollinated and seedless and dark colored flesh when pollinated and seedy. Examples are "Gailey", "Hyakume" and "Okame".

One more important division of cultivars is that having to do with astringency. Dark fleshed (pollinated) fruit from PV cultivars are never astringent. Light fleshed (unpollinated) fruit however, is rich in tannin and therefore "puckery" if eaten before softening. Exceptions to this rule are "Fuyu", "Jiro", "Gosho" and "Suruga" which are sweet and lacking astringency even when unripe. Environment can influence this characteristic

also, as in parts of Japan, China and California the cultivar "Tamopan" is said to be non-astringent. Here in Florida it is always astringent when unripe.

The persimmon is well appreciated in the Far East, although Japanese production has been falling in recent years due to less acreage and a drop in productivity per acre. So there may be a ready market for export if U.S. production could be raised. Until now there has been little demand by U.S. residents. The potential exists for a great expansion in persimmon production in both the southeast and the far west. Production and use is on the rise in both Israel and Brazil. The attractive, delicious and nutritious fruit deserves a greater prominence here than it has so far achieved.

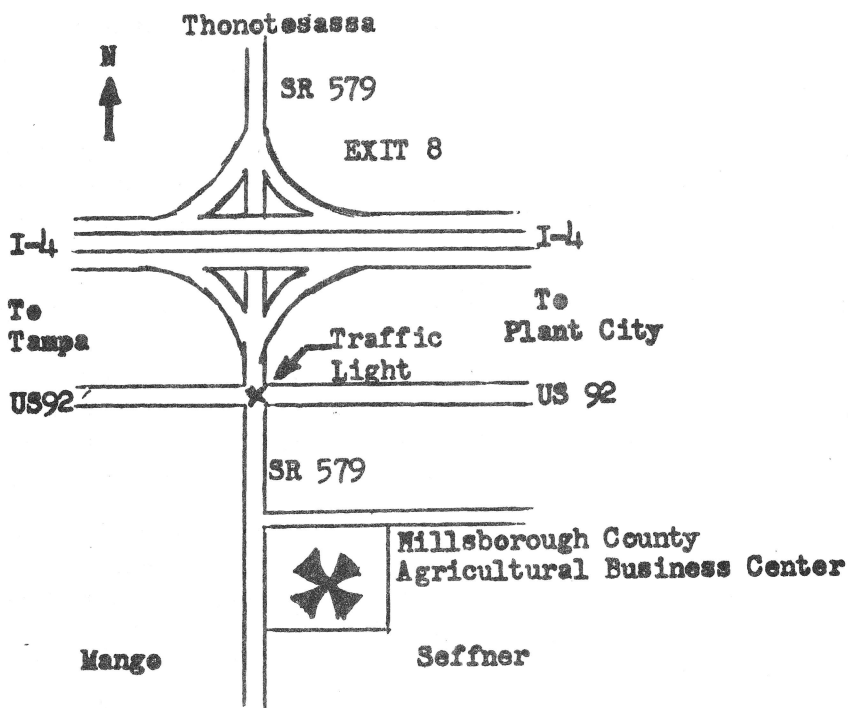
Adapted from Dr. Knight's article in the Miami newsletter, 9/79

LYCHEE (*Litchi chinensis*) - NEVER use a "green" mulch, such as grass clippings, leaves, etc. If not well composted, mulch will cause a toxic condition in the soil as it breaks down. This will in turn cause the lychee to go into a decline from which it will take 2 to 3 years to recover.

EPSOM SALTS (Magnesium Sulphate) when used with an acid fertilizer is good for Jaboticabas (*Myrciaria cauliflora*). Epsom salts are also good for the Grumichama (*Eugenia dombeyi*) which can also benefit from a nutritional spray of minor elements for treatment of yellowing.

TO GERMINATE very small seeds (like *Muntingia calabura*, Strawberry Tree) distribute on surface of moist screened peat moss in a pot. A glass plate over the pot will prevent drying and allow light to enter. After germination, handle plants in the usual manner.

Tampa Bay Chapter Newsletter
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BRING PLANTS. BRING FRUIT. BRING A FRIEND.