



# NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1982

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

CHAPTER ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 16003, TAMPA, FL 33687

UNLESS OTHERWISE ADVISED, MEETINGS ARE HELD AT 2:00 PM, THE SECOND SUNDAY  
OF EACH MONTH.

NEXT MEETING.....SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 1982 at 2:00 PM

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

PROGRAM....."FIGS", by Dr. A.H. Krezdorn, former  
Fruit Crops Department Head at the Univ.  
of Florida, Gainesville. Dr. Krezdorn is  
a Horticultural Consultant and writer.  
He was our guest speaker in April of 1981.

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## NEW MEMBERS

Bruce & Alice Beasor, 500 Raphael Blvd., NE, St. Petersburg 33704, Tel. 896-2432

Mary Ellen Morrow, 16503 Hanna Road, Lutz 33549, Tel. 949-3445

Albert Greenberg, Eureka Springs Road, Route 9, Box 58A, Tampa 33610, Tel. 626-6815

## ADDRESS CHANGE

William & Nancy Lester, Route 2, Box 1202, Odessa 33556

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1982 THIRD ANNUAL PLANT SALE will be held from 1:00 to 5:00 PM on Sunday, October 24th. It will be located in the same building as last year, the Florida Living Center at the Florida State Fair Grounds, Tampa. Mark the date on your calendar and notify everyone you can. Set-up will be all day Saturday, October 23, and Sunday morning. Please plan to help us as usually all the work falls to eight or ten regulars, which makes it much too hectic. There will be a planning session in lieu of a program at our regular monthly meeting in October on Sunday the 10th. If anyone can help with the pre-sale publicity, please contact Betty Dickson, Publicity Chairwoman (522-5147).

ANNUAL DUES: There are still quite a few who have not renewed. Some have already been dropped and this will be the final newsletter sent to others. Send to P.O. Box 16003, Tampa 33687 and not to Jud for the next two months.

JUNE 18/19 WEST PALM BEACH TRIP: Details have been mailed to everyone on the list. If you want to join us or have any questions or comments please get in touch with Ray Thorndike (646-2137, Lakeland). We plan to visit Possum Hollow Nursery and perhaps one other nursery if there is time before returning to Tampa Saturday aft.

1982 PLANT LIST FOR CENTRAL FLORIDA: Finally, we have gone to press with our official plant list for Central Florida. It has been compiled from various lists produced by other clubs plus all the reference works available to us. Our list is unique in organization. It is arranged in order of relative cold hardiness. The Plant List Committee hopes that you will find this work useful and that it will whet your appetite (literally) for growing fruits that you do not now have.

Pick up your copy at the next three or four meetings. Sign for it, in order to remove your name from the list of those to be mailed. We wish to save the expense and trouble of mailing of any more copies than absolutely necessary. Those who have not obtained their copy by September will be mailed same.

JULY 11 MEETING: Plans for the July meeting will be discussed at the June meeting. It has been suggested that we have a Field Trip in lieu of a regular meeting at Seffner and that the site be Eureka Springs. Eureka Springs is about 4 miles from the Seffner Ag Bldg. and was donated to the city of Tampa several years ago by our member, Albert Greenberg. It has a spring, small pond and boardwalks around a swampy area. No fruits to see, but it has 3 picnic tables and a screened community room with 3 more tables indoors. Thus, those who wished to arrive early could bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the natural setting. Without a formal program, there would not be enough to do to take up the usual meeting time. So, we are open to suggestions.

AUGUST 8 MEETING: We have been invited back to Tom & Margaret Hughes' place in Dover, "Tom Hughes Vineyard". Muscadine grapes will be in harvest at that time.

SEPTEMBER 12 MEETING: This will also be a Field Trip. We shall meet at the Palmers' nursery in St. Petersburg. We would also like to schedule another stop or two for the afternoon. Betty Dickson suggests the Palm Arboretum in St. Petersburg. Any other suggestions?

OCTOBER 3 BEACH PICNIC: At the Fort De Soto Park Picnic the possibility of another beach picnic this year was discussed. Sunday, October 3, seemed to be the best date and the site would be Howard Park, Tarpon Springs. This would be in addition to the regular monthly meeting on October 10 and is merely in the talking stage right now. It will be discussed at the upcoming meetings.

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#### MAY MEETING PLANT DRAWING RESULTS

<u>PLANT</u>	<u>DONOR</u>	<u>WINNER</u>
Solanum species	Ray Thorndike	Nancy Lester
Tomatillo	Ray Thorndike	Nancy Lester
Okinawa Peach	Walter Vines	Arnold Stark
Java Plum	Albert Greenberg	Lana Beaudoin
Java Plum	Albert Greenberg	Barry Getis
Carissa species	Bob Heath	Glen Myrie
Pineapple	Bob Heath	Glen Myrie
Grumichama	Ray Thorndike	Bill Ryland
Jaboticaba	Gil Whitton	Mary Ellen Morrow
Papaya	Ray Thorndike	Barry Getis
Papaya	Ray Thorndike	Albert Greenberg

GARDEN MANNERS

Before we sally forth on our first of hopefully many field trips to visit personal gardens or public arboretums, I feel it is useful to print a short set of rules of conduct for guests. These are abstracted from an article in the California Rare Fruit Growers Newsletter (Vol. 13, No. 2).

1. Women should never wear high heels when visiting a garden. Old , comfortable shoes are recommended for everyone.
2. Without permission, NEVER pull fruit or blossoms. Avoid touching plants.
3. Do not ask for seeds, cuttings or plants. This obligates the host to ask if others want them, and, of course, they all do.
4. Do not leave a trail of gum or candy wrappers, discarded cigarette butts, etc.
5. If there are paths, stay on them to avoid trampling plants, etc. Close gates behind you.
6. Permission to visit the garden does not include a ramble through the house.
7. Avoid distracting private conversations and straggling. Not to give your host undivided attention is rude. Remember, he is doing the guests a favor, not vice versa.
8. Ask permission before delaying the group to take pictures. Be considerate of your host's time.
9. Be tactful and kind to your host. Do not correct him on plant names. Do not declare loudly, "I wouldn't give that stuff space in my garden," or "You should see MY pansies - big as dinner plates."  
In other words, be the kind of guest that you would welcome into your yard.

I'm really not worried about any groups that we take on field trips. Other groups have had embarrassing experiences, thus reminders can't hurt.

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REPORT OF MAY 16, 1982 MEETING

President Heath opened the meeting at 2:00. The first item for discussion was the West Palm Beach Field Trip. Final plans were explained and the list of those planning to go was verified.

Pres. Heath passed out sign-up sheets for committee volunteers. An immediate volunteer was requested to take over Jud Newcombe's duties as Membership Chairman for the next two months during his absence. Irene Rubenstein has volunteered.

It was announced that the Annual Plant Sale will be held on October 24th, 1:00 to 5:00 PM, in the Florida Living Center Building at the Florida State Fair Grounds. Pres. Heath announced the following task appointments: Paul Rubenstein, Plant Procurement; Betty Dickson, Promotion; and Elizabeth MacManus, Fruit Display.

Ray Thorndike stated that he has sent scion wood of the "Dade" white sapote to David C. Higham in Ravenshoe, Queensland, Australia. Mr. Higham has written to report that it was received in good condition, that the grafts had taken , and that they were growing in quarantine. Ray also reported on sending and receiving seeds from the California Rare Fruit Growers.

Bill Ryland, Secretary

PROGRAM: FERTILIZERS AND NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCIES

by Gil Whitton

(Note - Because of the importance of this subject, I took the liberty of enlarging on Gil Whitton's program, using Florida Cooperative Extension Service publications: Bulletins SL-3, SL-8, 183-B and Circular 435. As a result, the length of this article requires that it be completed in a later issue. - Editor)

At least 94% of dry plant tissue is composed of the three elements, carbon (C), hydrogen (H), and oxygen (O), which are supplied by air ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) and water ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ). The remaining 6% is made up of thirteen nutrient elements derived from the soil or from fertilizers. These thirteen are commonly divided into three groups. The Primary Elements (Macronutrients) are nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K). The Secondary Elements are calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg) and sulfur (S). The third group, the Trace Elements (Micronutrients), so-called because they are required in very small amounts by plants, are iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), boron (B), copper (Cu), zinc (Zn), molybdenum (Mo) and chlorine (Cl). A deficiency of any of these sixteen elements can have drastic effects on fruit crops.

The availability of soil nutrients to plants is dependent on various factors. One is soil pH, the measure of relative acidity or alkalinity expressed on a logarithmic scale of 0 to 14, 7.0 being neutral. The lower the number, the more acid the soil. The availability of each element to the plant varies with the pH level, the range of 6.0 to 7.0 being the optimum, usually.

The Florida Fertilizer Label

Florida law requires that each bag of fertilizer sold have a label showing specific information about the analysis and derivation of the contents. The "Guaranteed Analysis" section of the label is divided into the percentage of total nitrogen (N) - the sum of all forms of nitrogen present, available phosphoric acid (P), soluble potash (K), and each Secondary Nutrient present. A "Derived from" section lists actual source materials for the Primary Nutrients.

A mixed fertilizer is ordinarily identified by its Primary Nutrient analysis, e.g., 6-6-6, 4-7-5 or 12-10-20, standing for N-P-K percentages.

I. Nitrogen (N)

1. Nitrate Nitrogen ( $\text{NO}_3$ ) or "Chemical Fertilizer" is available immediately to the plant, but quickly leaches down through the soil and out of reach of the root system.
2. Ammoniacal Nitrogen ( $\text{NH}_4$ ) is converted to a nitrate form by organisms in warm moist soils with a pH above 5.0. About 50% becomes available to the plant within two weeks of application. The remainder may last 35 to 45 days in warm weather.
3. Water Soluble Organic Nitrogen, usually Urea ( $\text{CO}(\text{NH}_2)_2$ ), or "Organic Fertilizer", will last 10 to 15 days. It is "organic", but not a "natural" material like cottonseed meal, bone meal, sludge, etc. Urea is made by synthetic chemical processes and changes to ammoniacal nitrogen within a few days after application. Therefore, it should be considered equivalent to Ammoniacal Nitrogen.



4. Water Insoluble Nitrogen originally meant such natural materials as dried blood, seed meals, sewage sludge and tankage. Now, any form of water insoluble nitrogen may be used, such as ureaform (urea-formaldehyde), magnesium ammonium phosphate, etc. All of these materials must be converted first to ammoniacal, then to nitrate nitrogen by soil organisms before the elemental nitrogen is available to the plant. Thus, water insoluble nitrogen is a very slow release fertilizer and is less subject to leaching loss. It is good for 60 to 90 days in warm weather.

When you are buying fertilizer, it is very important that you understand the nitrogen analysis, since the price of the bag is based on the percentage of nitrogen contained.

II. Phosphorus (P) is quoted as percent equivalent  $P_2O_5$ , phosphoric acid (properly 'phosphate'). Plants absorb phosphorus mainly as  $H_2PO_4$  and  $HPO_4$  ions which are abundant in most Florida soils. Phosphate ion concentration may be as low as .001 parts per million in the soil solution for good plant health.

III. Potassium (K) is quoted as percent equivalent  $K_2O$ , potash. Water soluble potash comes mainly from muriate of potash, sulfate of potash magnesia, nitrate of soda potash, nitrate of potash and sulfate of potash. They are all equally usable by the plant.

#### Plant Nutrition and Deficiencies

1. Nitrogen (N) is a constituent of all living cells and is a necessary part of all proteins, enzymes and metabolic processes involved in the synthesis and the transfer of energy. Nitrogen is a structural part of chlorophyll, the green pigment in plants, which is responsible for photosynthesis. Nitrogen stimulates plants into rapid, vigorous growth, increasing seed and fruit yield and improving the quality of leaf and forage crops. Most Florida soils do not supply nitrogen in sufficient quantity to meet the desired growth requirements of fruiting plants. A nitrogen lack will cause slow growth and perhaps a pale yellow (chlorotic) coloration, especially on the lower (oldest) leaves.
2. Phosphorus (P) is also an essential part of the photosynthesis process. It is most abundant in young, growing tissue. It transfers readily within the plant from older to younger tissue. As a plant matures, most of its phosphorus moves into the seeds and/or fruits. Phosphorus influences flowering and fruiting habits of plants, hastens maturity (useful in the fall for hardening tender plants), encourages root development, increases disease resistance, improves drought and cold resistance and increases vigor and yield. Phosphorus deficiencies are rare in Central Florida. The deficiency is exhibited in the older leaves, which may have a dark bluish green color with some tints of bronze or purple. Other abnormalities include thin stalks, small leaves, coarse textured or spongy fruit. Root crops may be severely affected.
3. Potassium (K) plays an essential role in the metabolic processes of plants and perhaps in protein synthesis and photosynthesis. Although potassium is not found in organic combination with plant tissues, it is absorbed by plants in greater amounts than any other mineral element except nitrogen and, in some cases, calcium. Potassium reserves in Florida soils are very low and only small quantities are retained in surface soils. During heavy rainfalls, potassium leaches through the soil severely. Potassium deficiencies also first appear on the oldest leaves, usually as reddish discoloration or "scorch" at leaf edges, gradually working to the center, leaving a torn and ragged appearance. Other symptoms are slow growth, long, slender, weak stems, and low yields of misshapen fruits.

(Continued in a later issue.)

YELLOW PASSIONFRUIT(Passiflora edulis, var. flavicarpa)

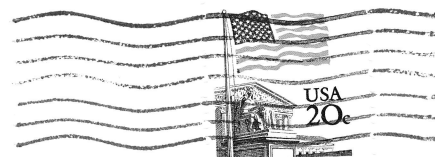
The Yellow Passionfruit is but one of a genus of several hundred species. It is a rapid growing vine suitable for ornamental or screening purposes. The large passion-flowers, up to 3" in diameter, bloom year around in warm weather. The round to ovoid fruits are usually 2" in diameter and turn yellow at maturity. The interior of the brittle shelled fruit is filled with a yellowish, gelatinous but juicy, aromatic pulp containing many seeds. After the addition of a little sugar, the pulp may be eaten directly from the shell with a spoon. The juice is high in vitamin C and is used for drinks and jellies. The vine flowers and fruits the year following planting. Pollination is a problem and planting other species nearby may help. Propagation is by seeds, cuttings and layers. It is quite tender, succumbing to light frosts, but may return from the roots.

(Adapted from article in Aug. '68 Miami newsletter)

Monstera deliciosa, or Ceriman, ripens gradually from one end in nature. By removing the fruit and enclosing it in a plastic bag, the whole of it will ripen all at once. When fully ripe, remove from the bag and peel. Then rewrap in plastic and freeze. Later, thaw, slice and use as needed. The flavor is not affected by freezing.

Conopharyngia elegans, the "Toad Tree", in the family Apocynaceae, is an African tree with very few branches, growing to a height of 30 feet. It grows in hotter areas with high annual rainfall and especially along rivers. It can stand some frost. It bears warty, keeled, ovoid fruits with orange pulp.

Tampa Bay Chapter Newsletter  
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