



# NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1984

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

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(Including Renewals)

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT 2:00 P.M. ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

NEXT MEETING. . . . . AUGUST 12, 1984

MEETING PLACE . . . . . TOM & MARTHA HUGHES VINEYARD & NURSERY,  
DOVER. EXIT 9 OFF I-4 AT McINTOSH ROAD,  
TURN LEFT JUST PAST CHEVRON STATION ON  
McINTOSH ROAD.

PROGRAM . . . . . No formal program. Following the business  
meeting, there will be the monthly plant  
drawing. Then members will be free to visit  
the vineyard and purchase grapes. Muscadines  
will be in season.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our Newsletter editor for many years, Ray Thorndike, announced formally at the July meeting that he finds it necessary to relinquish the editorship of the Newsletter. The Board wishes to acknowledge Ray's many contributions in the past, and wish him the best of luck in the future. We hope he will continue to submit articles.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Edible Landscaping at Agricultural Extension Center in Seffner

Two engineers from the Cooperative Extension Service in Tallahassee and several volunteers from Master Gardeners and the RFCI have spent several days installing an irrigation system for the trees to be planted in the area behind the building. The materials have been donated by local contractors (Century Rain Aid, Tampa; Irrigation World, Apopka; Hardie Irrigation (R.I.S.), Sanford; and Ag Water Supply, Sebring) and the system, when completed, may be used as a model system for those interested in installing an irrigation system. The donors of the materials have our undying gratitude.

The system should be completed before our next meeting in August, and at that time, we will be asking for volunteers to assist in planting trees and completion of the walks through the park.

We wish to thank those members who donated their time installing the irrigation system: Al Hendry and Herb Hill.

This will be a golden opportunity to learn the proper way to plant trees and to examine a model drip irrigation system.

Program: "FROM SAND TO LAND: THE NEW GENERATION OF ISRAELI AGRICULTURE"  
by Lawrence Wasser, Regional Director of the Jewish National Fund

Mr. Wasser opened his talk with a discussion of Israel and the political and agricultural problems which Israel has faced, and which he described as monumental. The state of Israel is 1/5 the size of the state of Florida, and supports a population of approximately 4 million, 3½ million of whom are Jewish. About 400,000 are Christians, and the other 100,000 are Moslems. You can drive across Israel in 45 minutes, and from the northernmost point at the border of Lebanon to the Southernmost point across the Negev Desert would take approximately 3½ hours by car.

The northernmost part of Israel is called Galilee and represents about 40% of the land. The rest of the state is the Negev Desert. An additional problem is that 85% of the people live on approximately 4% of the land, in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem or Haifa. In Galilee we get about 18" of rain a year. In the Negev Desert, we get about 2½" of rain, which normally falls within a 3 or 4 day period.

In the northern part of Israel and in the Negev Desert, also, but mainly in the northern part, we have been planting trees. We are planting trees for agricultural reasons and for drawing up water from the soil, producing rainfall, and also to beautify the land. My organization, J.N.F., has planted over 160 million trees. Trees that we have planted, which I have seen on my last trip, are the Jerusalem Pine, Olive Trees, Almonds, Date Palm, Pistachio, Acacia, Eucalyptus, Sycamore, Pear and Cypress. We have Anna Apples, Loquats, Almonds, Plums, Lemons, Apricots, Mulberries, Carobs, Figs, Grapes, Pomegranates, and Pecans, as well as the melons, honeydew, watermelon and cantaloupes. All of these are growing very well in the northern sections of Israel because the climate is good. But what we are trying to do is adapt these fruits and vegetables to the Negev Desert, which is quite amazing. If you can grow plants in the desert with salty soil and salty water, this is something very, very special. Of course we use drip irrigation because of the shortage of water.

Cotton, which was formerly grown only in Galilee, is now being grown in the Negev Desert. We have developed a new tomato, which has a shelf life of 6 weeks and has a very pliable skin. It permits shipping all over the world because of the long shelf life. These tomatoes can be grown with as much as 17% salt water. We have a new peanut which has been developed in the last year. The peanuts themselves are slightly smaller than the ones we know here but they are four to the pod so you get twice as many peanuts per acre as you would normally. We have garlics that are unbelievably big, the size of grapefruit. The only difference is they have no odor. The flavor is the same but without the odor of garlic. We are developing a new wheat, which has been growing in Galilee for many years. This wheat has a very high protein content. It is different than the wheat we have here in that the wheat only grows about three feet tall but it grows much thicker. So what we are trying to do is to develop mutations that will grow well in the desert with the use of brackish water for irrigation.

This and a few of the other things I have mentioned are what our experiment stations are doing in Israel to develop agriculture.

At this point, Mr. Wasser showed a slide presentation which lasted approximately 15 minutes, and discussed Israeli history and some of the agricultural things they are doing. It was concerned with the history of the J.N.F. and the concept of the Israeli homeland from approximately 1900 til the present. The slides presented the procurement and development of the land that now comprises the state of Israel with particular attention to the building of settlements and the development of agriculture in a land that is very desolate and hostile and lacking in natural resources.

Dear Friends: This month's plant raffle was absolutely fabulous! Thanks to all you generous people. Because there was such a large number of plants, just about everyone also went home with a new one, and we all had a marvelous time with it.

PLANT	DONOR	WINNER
Michal apple	RFCI	Al Roberts
Floridahome Pear	RFCI	Albert Greenberg
Pink Pommelo (seedling)	A & L Stark	John Bell
Etrog (citron) (seedling)	A & L Stark	Walter Vines
Tahitian Melon Squash	Stan Lachut	Seekins
Celeste Fig	A Mendez	K. Netscher
Pink Guava	A Mendez	Doris Lee
White Guava	A Mendez	John Bell
Avocado seedling	A Mendez	?
Tahitian Melon Squash	Stan Lachut	Glen Myrie
Tahitian Melon Squash	Stan Lachut	A Mendez
White mulberry	Janet Conard	C Gomez Sanchez
Pear	Janet Conard	Herb Hill
Temple orange	Paul Rubenstein	Bob Heath
White Sapote	Paul Rubenstein	Doris Lee
Sugar Apple	Paul Rubenstein	Walter Vines
Orange Berry	Bob Heath	Rome Vaccaro
Chaya Spinach	Bob Heath	Rome Vaccaro
Fried Egg Fruit	Bob Heath	Stark
Solanum nigrum	Ray Thorndike	A Mendez
Solanum nigrum	Ray Thorndike	Herb Hill
Flying Dragon	Ray Thorndike	Glen Myrie
Naranjilla	Ray Thorndike	John Bell
Lulita	Ray Thorndike	Henry Stewart
Persimmon (& Papaya)	Ray Thorndike	Seekins
Sapote (& Papaya)	Ray Thorndike	Dennis Gavin
Flying Dragon	Ray Thorndike	A Mendez
Blackberry	Doris Lee	?
Blackberry	Doris Lee	Roland Williams
Blackberry	Doris Lee	Roland Williams
Blackberry	Doris Lee	A Mendez
Blackberry	Doris Lee	Al Roberts
Blackberry	Doris Lee	John Bell
Loquat	Doris Lee	Dennis Gavin
Loquat	Doris Lee	Dennis Gavin
Loofa	Doris Lee	Janet Conard
Blue Bunch Grape (seedling)	Rome Vaccaro	Tom Goldsworthy
Papayas	Rome Vaccaro	Al Roberts
Golddedge Thyme	Rome Vaccaro	Stark
Fig	Seekins	K. Netscher
Fig (Brown Turkey)	Seekins	Bob Heath
Greek Oregano	C. Prodanas	Dennis Gavin
5 seedlings from Spice Park	C. Prodanas	Bob Heath
Jerusalem Artichoke	C. Prodanas	Dennis Gavin
Butterfly Ginger	P. Boatwright	Doris Lee
Butterfly Ginger	P. Boatwright	?
Butterfly Ginger	P. Boatwright	?
Papaya (large)	Myrie	Tom Goldsworthy
Papaya	?	C Gomez Sanchez
Flat of papaya seedlings	Doris Lee	Herb Hill

## A Message from the President

FANTASTIC! Probably for the first time in our Chapter's history, there were more plants in the plant drawing than there were members present at the meeting! This certainly increased the chance for everyone to be a winner, and made the drawing, and consequently the meeting, even more exciting than usual. I'd like to think that this bounty was at least partially due to last month's message, a response which I find most gratifying. I would like to thank all of you for this response, one which confirms my belief that if we clearly let our members know our Chapter's needs, you will all pull together. Please continue your generosity, and make each month's plant drawing something to which everyone looks forward.

Don't forget the other activities which need your participation! We still need more members helping with the hospitality table. I'm sure there are more good cooks out there, with favorite fruit recipes. Bring something along to a meeting, and also see your recipe in print in the next newsletter (there's a little Julia Child in each of us). Volunteer a contribution before hand, so we can organize a schedule. We can only eat so much, no matter how delicious!

The Annual Plant Sale is definitely the big one! We absolutely need everyone's help, before, during, and after the sale. It was our membership which made last year a success. While the organizers did the groundwork, it was definitely a cooperative effort. I, personally, found this shared experience very satisfying, as did many others. You will too, so volunteer today!

Also, don't forget that our Newsletter is now accepting paid advertising (with very low prices). Our members want to know about YOUR business, so consider an ad for the next Newsletter. Where are all our nurserymen? (For that matter, WHO are they?)

SEE YOU ALL AT THE NEXT MEETING AT THE HUGHES VINEYARD!

\* \* \*

## Hospitality Table

Christine Prodanas: Mango Jam Cake, Preserved Lemon Figs, Watermelon Rind Pickle, Spinach Pie, Iced Tea

Ann Voorhees: Guava Paste

Bea Seekins: Apricot Bread, Cream Cheese with Strawberries Spread, Cream Cheese and Pimento Spread

## Recipe of the Month

### APRICOT BREAD (Bea Seekins)

2½ cups flour	½ cup honey	8 oz. can crushed
1½ tsp baking power	1/3 cup butter, melted	pineapple, undrained
¼ tsp salt	1 egg	½ cup chopped dried
¼ tsp baking soda	¼ cup milk or cream	apricots
1 cup pecans		1/3 cup raisins

Combine first four dry ingredients and set aside. Combine and beat honey, butter, egg, and milk. Add fruit. Stir in flour mixture. Add pecans. Pour into greased 9" x 5" x 3" pan. Bake at 350° for 1 hour, 15 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes clean. Cool 10 minutes in the pan. Turn out on rack and cool.

## A GROWER'S REPORT

by Ray Thorndike

To continue my reports on observations and experiences in growing fruit in my yard in Lakeland as I had been doing while editor of the newsletter, I want to especially emphasize the effects of the record freezes of Christmas 1983. Obviously, the effects of this particular freeze were so severe because it occurred while trees were in a growth phase or only a semi-dormant state rather than a fully dormant condition proper at such a time of year.

The most unexpected damage to occur in my yard was the outright killing of a plum tree (Prunus salicina), variety "Burbank". Instead of being dormant, it must have been active because the main trunk froze from close to the ground on up. This was a fully grown and bearing tree. In the spring it put out a dozen or so straggly leaves and no bloom. Then large areas of split bark appeared, exposing the dead wood underneath. Two other plums, "Methley" and "Early Bruce", were undamaged only a few feet away. The "Methley" bore its first crop this spring with a goodly number of small, very sweet, red fleshed plums. My "Early Bruce" makes only a very few but very good white fleshed plums, of more tart flavor than "Methley".

If I only had room for one plum tree, the "Methley" would win over the others. It is also a more attractive tree in shape and foliage, although the "Early Bruce" is more compact and much more spectacular in bloom, rivaling the dogwoods which blossom at the same time.

One trouble with plums is their very short harvest period, usually less than two weeks. Also, they coincide with peach and nectarine harvests. However, I have had absolutely no insect problems with plums, whereas I have had insurmountable problems with the nectarine, "Sunred", between beetles and fruit flies, not to mention birds and squirrels. This nectarine is a very heavy hearer and has one of the most delicious fruits on the planet, but I would not recommend it or any other peach or nectarine as a dooryard tree. Let the professional growers cope with the problems and buy the fruit from them. It is cheaper.

Sticking to the Rosaceae family, I have an "Anna" apple and a "Golden Dorsett" which do not bloom together, but merely overlap their blossoming periods so as to give a poor pollination and thus a minimal fruit count. I did have my best crop this year but, as usual, did not spray. As with the plums and nectarines, every day that I wanted to spray, the wind blew or it rained, so most of my apples were destroyed by disease or insects. And, although many apples were larger this year than ever before, none of the crop compared favorably with commercial apples in size. All in all, I think that I would rather have some other fruit take up the growing space.

To continue in the same Rosaceae family and also in a negative vein, one of the two Capulin Cherry trees (Prunus salicifolia) that I planted about four years ago bore a half dozen fruit early this summer. They were pea sized and all seed, no flesh. I have read in the California Rare Fruit Growers' Newsletter that a Capulin with useful fruit is a rarity. Can anyone contradict this?

(continued next page...)

Interestingly, a few feet away from the dead plum, my Cas (Psidium friedrichsthalianum), like the Phoenix from the ashes, to coin a phrase, arises from its roots along with the common guavas (Psidium guajava), also nearby. Even the Cattley Guavas (Psidium cattleianum) were totally flattened, the first time that I have seen that happen. Of course, they are all returning strong as are the Downy Myrtles (Rhodomyrtus tomentosa).

Another surprise to me was the very severe damage suffered by my largest Cherries of the Rio Grande (Eugenia aggregata). Two 8-footers were clipped back to 2 feet or less. Some of my Surinam Cherries fared almost as well and they are not nearly as hardy. Other Eugenias that were killed to the ground (but are recovering) are my two Grumichamas (Eugenia dombeyi) and my Pitomba (Eugenia luschnathiana).

The freeze did not spare the Rutaceae either, completely killing my 12-foot Wampi (Clausena lansium) and cutting my fully grown 30-foot White Sapote (Casimiroa edulis) back to a 3-foot stump. I first tried to prune the Sapote back to an 8- to 10-foot height, but the bark kept splitting away lower and lower. In contrast, my seedling orange tree only had minor wood damage and should bear a reasonably good crop this year. A young Kumquat did have its top killed back a foot or two. Some young "Flying Dragon" trifoliata rootstocks in 1/2 gallon pots came through without damage as they should have.

Recorded lows in my yard for the two nights of freeze were 25°F and 21°F. 19°F was the official low that second night.

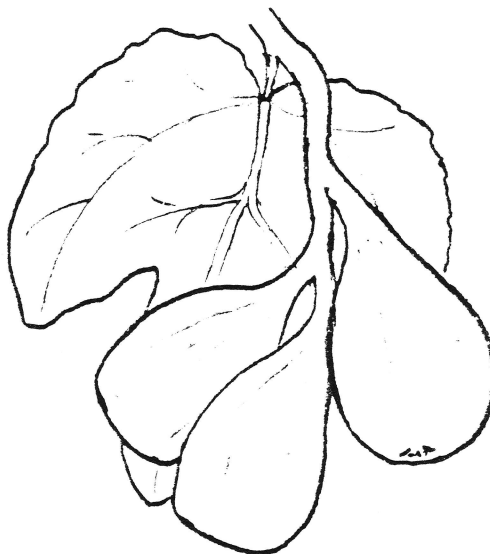
Other casualties were some Annonaceae. One Sugar Apple, the largest and best bearer, was killed. Another was cut to ground level, but is sprouting strongly from the base as has an unknown species next to it which had halfway mature fruit on it at freeze time. Also, a Cherimoya is weakly resprouting from its roots.

Naturally, all my papayas and other Caricas were destroyed except for one small weed papaya that was in the shade of a larger, bearing papaya. I let some of the papaya fruit rot into the ground where it fell from the trees and now many of the seeds have sprouted and must be pulled out. They transplant easily provided all of the large leaves are removed immediately, the growing shoot at the top being untouched, and adequate daily watering being applied for a week or more.

Grower's Reports. The editorial board wishes to encourage members to submit very brief grower's reports (like Ray Thorndike's) for future issues. Single topic reports would be ideal. Upbeat reports about your successes and how you achieved them would be very helpful to all of us. Reports which have been overfertilized are subject to pruning.

\* \* \* \* \*

YOUR BUSINESS AD could have appeared here for \$2.50, or a quarter page for \$5.00. We would like to encourage business between members, while subsidizing the newsletter production costs.



## Tissue Culture Committee Report, Walter Vines, Chairman

## Part 2. (continued from June issue)

Dr. Richard Litz joined the Homestead Research Papaya Breeding Program, working with tissue culture to discover a plant resistant to the serious disease, "Pyrene foxfires". This disease occurs in south Florida and the Caribbean. Papaya is very susceptible to it; greatly reduced leaf areas and poor fruiting results in the plants finally having to be destroyed.

In his search for a disease resistant variety, Dr. Litz looked at Carica califlora, a plant of the South American Andes. It produces an interesting little fruit with a strawberry aroma, along the stems. Unfortunately, C. califlora is incompatible with C. papaya. There is no endosperm in the hybrid seed to nourish the developing embryo. Thus, the embryo dies prior to germination.

By transferring a hybrid embryo to tissue culture medium, Dr. Litz was able to develop a polyembryonic callus from the hybrid ovule. That is to say, instead of just one plantlet developing from the seed, a large number of identical plantlets (clones) were produced from the one hybrid. Hence, a new Papaya was created: the Cariflora Papaya.

We have had seeds of this new papaya available at previous meetings; some are being grown for the fall plant sale. Joe Constantine donated a nice specimen to our May plant raffle. Thus, we are seeing in our own club the direct results of plant tissue culture.

Erratum. July, 1984 Newsletter, p. 84-30, tissue-culture article: paragraph 3: change "hermaphroditic" to read "... (separate male and female plants) ..."

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## TREASURY NOTES....by Tom Goldsworthy (continued)

8. The Chapter's financial books are available for inspection by any current member at any monthly meeting. If anyone is interested in serving as the 1985 Treasurer, please indicate your interest to me now so that you can begin to learn our system gradually.
9. Business card maps to Earl Martin's Fruit Farm and Nursery in Ft. White are available at each monthly meeting at the Treasurer's table. If you are a member who has a similar business related to fruits or nuts, the Treasurer will be happy to display yours also at the Treasurer's table.
10. Annual Plant Sale. Starting with the August meeting at Tom and Margaret Hughes' Vineyard, we will have the Plant Sale Committee sign-up sheets at the Treasurer's table. You can help up plan and coordinate this event by expressing your committment and willingness by volunteering NOW, IN ADVANCE. All your Chapter officers have reserved that one weekend on October 13 and 14 for the Club. Won't you do the same? Enclosed in this Newsletter is a list of the Plant Sale committees, so you can be thinking what to sign up for at the meeting.
11. Annual Plant Sale - Member Discounts. Your board, after reviewing the last two years' expenses, has established the following policy for member sales:
  - A. All members shall be entitled to a 10% discount, upon showing the cashier a current membership card.

- B. Club member workers shall receive a 25% discount, provided that they work at least one half day or more.
  - C. On Sunday, after 4:00 p.m., all remaining stock ON THE SALES FLOOR will sell for 50% price to members with ID cards. (This cannot apply to plants reserved off the floor.)
  - D. No other credits or discounts will be given.
  - E. Monies collected from the sale of members' plants will be split 50/50 between member and Chapter.
12. Annual Plant Sale - Parking. We are still investigating; but it may be necessary to mail out free parking passes only to those workers who sign up in advance. (Another incentive to commit yourself.)

\* \* \* \* \*

"CITRUS: DRENCHED IN HISTORY" (reprinted from Citrus: Yesterday and Today)  
(first in a series)

2201 B.C. "The baskets were filled with woven ornamental silk. The bundles contained small oranges and pummelos...." From the ancient book, Yu Kung, meaning "Tribute of Yu", written about Chinese Emperor Ta Yu.

586-539 B.C. During their captivity in Babylon, the Jews became acquainted with the citron, which had been cultivated in Mesopotamia before then. \*

310 B.C. The citron is mentioned in the writings of the Greek historian Theophrastus. It is the first citrus of any kind written about by a European. He wrote: "Thus one sees in Media and Persia among many other productions the tree called Persian or Median apple ... Its fruit is not edible but it has an exquisite odor, as also have the leaves which are used as a protection from moths in clothing. A decoction of the pulp of this fruit is thought to be an antidote to poison, and will also sweeten the breath ... The citron bears fruit continuously. While some fruit is falling with ripeness other fruit is but just starting ... Fruit is given only by the flowers which have in the middle a sort of straight spindle; those which do not have this fall off, producing nothing."

70-19 B.C. The Latin poet Virgil includes mention of the citron in his writings. He uses the name Median apple.

\* Familiarity by Jews with the citron (etrog) probably predates this citation by a considerable period, as it is considered one of the 'four species' utilized ceremoniously during the Feast of Tabernacles (Succoth) ("And you shall take on the first day the fruit of goodly trees ..." - Leviticus 23:40). These 'goodly trees' are considered to be Citrus medica by various authorities. Citrons were introduced into various countries of the Near East from India in very ancient times, and likely grew in Israel in Biblical times. (Moldenke, 1952, Plants of the Bible; Zohary, 1982, Plants of the Bible.)

\* \* \* \* \*

A. START WORK LONG BEFORE THE SALE.

- 001 Plant Ordering & Selection
- 002 Site Selection & Site Negotiating
- 003 Publicity: Media, TV, Newspapers
- 004 Publicity: Lecture circuit
- 005 Securing Shopping Carts For Sale
- 006 Telephone Work / s needed.
- 007 General Help (Wherever Needed)
- 008 Signs & Signmaking
- 009

B. START WORK THE WEEKEND OF SALE.

- 200 General Help Volunteers (Wherever Needed)
- 201 Sales Floor Set Up
- 202 Plant Unloading
- 203 Inventory Verification of Plant Suppliers(Check IN)
- 204 Plantsale Chairman's Headquarters (caps,badges,rosters)
- 205 Photography
- 206 Have Truck,Will Travel
- 207 Pricing Committee
- 208

C. START WORK ON SUNDAY SALE DAY.

- 400 Sales Floor Managers
- 401 Customer Information & Advice Team
- 402 Indoor Security, Shopping Carts, Traffic Management, & Loading of Customer Cars.
- 403 General Help Volunteers (Wherever Needed)
- 404 Parking & Outdoor Security
- 405 Finances; Check approval; sales clerks; club discounts; banking; & financial report.
- 406 Club Membership Display Booth
- 407 Club Publication Sales Booth
- 408 Fresh Fruit Sales Booth
- 409 University Extension Display
- 410 Assist Authors (Dr. Maxwell) (Customer Information)
- 411 Fruit Products Sale.
- 412 Fresh Fruit Sale
- 413 First Aid Station
- 414

D. START WORK SUNDAY AFTER SALE ENDS.

- 600 General Help Volunteer (Wherever Needed)
- 601 Plant Loading Onto Suppliers' Trucks.
- 602 Inventory Verification of Plant Suppliers (Check OUT)
- 603 Writing Thank you letters.
- 604 Sales Floor Tear Down & Clean Up
- 605 Provide Storage Space at your house until next year, for some of the sale equipment, signs, or supplies.
- 606

Since the sale work falls into four distinct time groups, we hope that you will each sign up for two or three groups. We encourage people who worked in a particular area last year to sign up again for the same area, so that each committee can function quite independently during set up weekend.

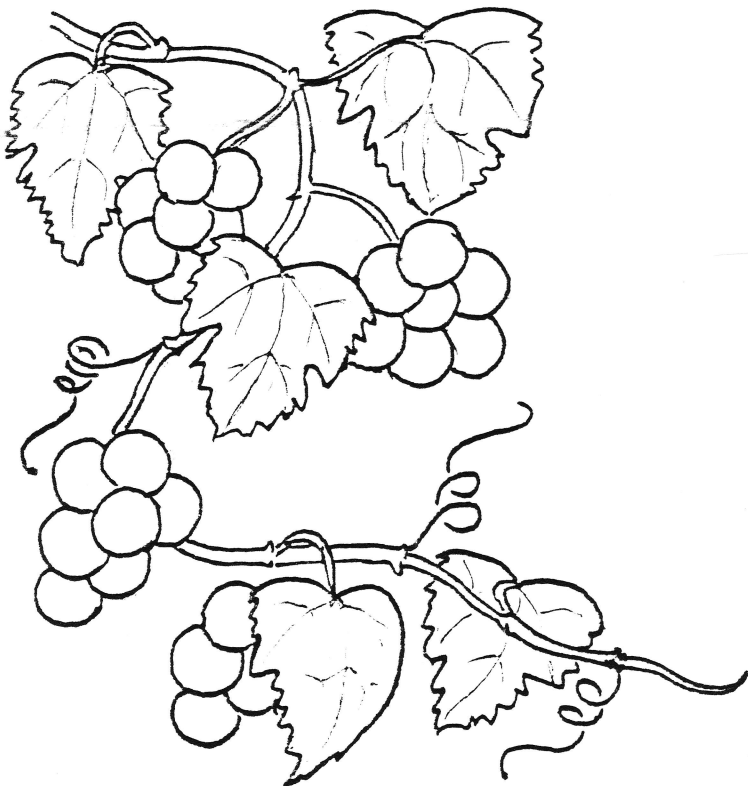
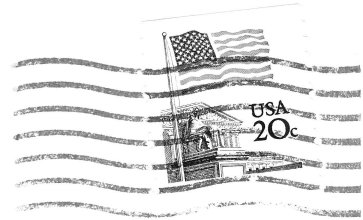
If you have any questions, call Tom Goldsworthy at 920-6147 or 847-6031 (West Pasco).

What will really help us, is if you will sign-up on our committee rosters now, so we know that we can count on you for the one weekend.

"etrog"  
Citrus medica  
 (see p. 84-48)



Tampa Bay Chapter Newsletter  
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