



# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1985

**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 . . . . . THE BIG ONE: October 20, Sunday, 1:00 p.m.  
Our sixth annual Fruit Tree Sale. Set up for  
the sale will be on Saturday, October 19, 9:00 a.m.  
Lunch will be provided by the club for Saturday  
workers. There will be no other regular meeting  
this month.

MEETING PLACE. . . . . FLORIDA STATE FAIRGROUNDS. Use Orient Road  
entrance.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Address Changes:

Ryland, Bill: 2446 Granada Circle East South, St. Petersburg FL 33712

Lester, Bill & Nancy: P.O. Box 328, Englewood, FL 34295 Phone: 813-493-0041

Nelson, Pearl: 509 Lee Circle, Lakeland FL 33803

daCosta, Frank & Jean: Rt. 1, Box 1598, Trenton FL 32693

Stark, Arnold: (Office telephone listing in directory is incorrect)  
phone (office): 932-3731 (Tampa)

\* \* \* \* \*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Many thanks are due Janet Conard and Al Roberts for hosting our September meeting, to all the provenders of our potluck pleasures, and to all those who participated in our plant sale planning session. I only wish more of you had participated! Please remember that we expect all of you to pitch in the weekend of the sale, October 19 & 20. This is our most important event of the year, and without your help, it cannot be successful. Remember, only those who work at least one half day are eligible for a 25% discount on plant purchases. If you have already signed up to participate, your parking pass is enclosed in this newsletter. If you have not received one, you will have to pay for parking at the Fairgrounds. (As you can see, volunteering does have its small rewards!) That's it for now; I look forward to seeing each of you on the weekend of the sale. (NOTE: Your club dues barely pay for this newsletter; it is the sale proceeds which support the rest of our programs. WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION!!!)

\*NOTE\* In case you haven't as yet heard the news, there is a moratorium on the movement of young citrus throughout the state. So...a citrus-less sale once again! (What a lemon!)

## FRUIT TREES FOR CENTRAL FLORIDA

by Bob Heath

Third in a series of articles on fruit trees especially suited to cultivation in central Florida.

### THE FEIJOA (*feijoa sellowiana*)

The feijoa is also called the pineapple guava because of its growth habits and suggestion of pineapple flavor in taste to some people. The tree shape varies considerably with different varieties, being compact and spreading or tall, open and straggling in habit. The leaves are 2" long by 1" wide. The upper surface of the oval leaves is dark glossy green, the lower silver grey. The flowers which come in the spring are 1 to 1-1/2 inch across, beautiful and have the unusual quality of being quite tasty. Each flower has four cupped petals, white on the outside and purple within and the long stamens make a red tuft in the center. The mature fruit is oblong or round in shape, 1 to 3 inches long, green with a thick light colored bloom. The skin is thin like a guava with a layer of somewhat granular flesh overlaying a core of jelly like pulp in which many minute seeds are embedded when the fruit is mature, it will fall from the tree and when properly ripened, is very sweet with a delightful aroma.

The feijoa grows wild on the plains of southern Brazil and northern Argentina. They may be grown from seed, preferably from a tree of better quality fruit and may bear in the fourth or fifth year. In some cases the plants are self-sterile and must be pollinated from the pollen of other plants. In other cases the plants are self-fertile and produce abundant fruit without cross fertilization. Grafted or layered plants from self-fertile varieties begin bearing in two or three years.

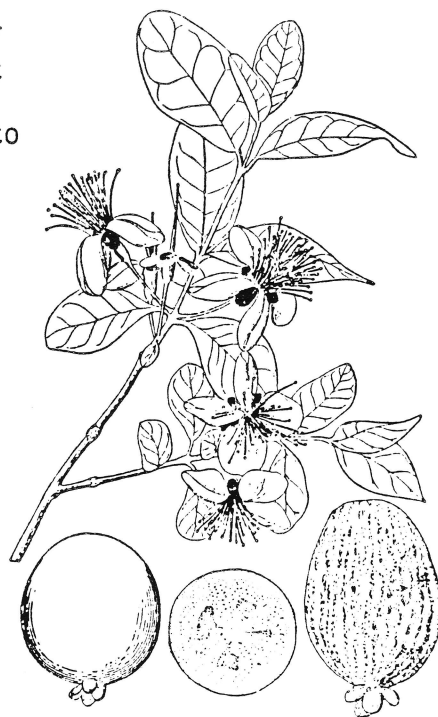
The tree is relatively cold hardy, able to endure 15°F with no damage under most conditions. It is very drought resistant but should be irrigated liberally for best results at time of fruiting. A sand loam, with plenty of humus, is considered to be ideal. The plant has few insect pests other than the Caribbean fruit fly. Black scale seems to be the principal enemy of the plant.

We are not presently propagating named varieties of feijoa in central Florida, but are making an effort to produce better fruit by selection. The seeds, if kept dry, should retain their viability for up to a year or more. They are small and delicate and should not be planted in heavy soils. The seeds should be sown in flats covered to a depth of 1/4 to 1/8 inch with a light sandy loam. Germination should occur within three weeks. As soon as the plants have produced their second leaves, they should be transplanted to three inch pots, from which they may later be transplanted into the ground or larger pots.

Feijoas may be layered by bending branches to the ground and covering with soil. No further care is required except to keep the soil moist until roots form, which may be size months or longer.

Cuttings of young wood from the end of branches or the young sprouts from the base of the plant will form roots with some difficulty. The cuttings should be kept under mist or covered with glass and provided with bottom heat.

Whip grafting is probably the best method of propagating the feijoa. The stock should be about the size of a lead pencil, the scion the same size or slightly smaller and of mature wood.



Feijoa foliage, flowers & fruits \*

\* from William Popenoe's Manual of Tropical & Subtropical Fruits.

SEFFNER AGRICULTURAL CENTER PLANTING STATUS

Our park at the Seffner Agricultural Extension Center is still in need of many trees as those of us who have visited there can testify. We are making a special effort in the next few months to obtain some of the needed trees.

Plants which are still needed are as follows:

Papayas	White Sapote
Blueberries	Jelly Palm
Bananas	Carambolas
White Mulberry	Chinese Raisin
Peaches & Nectarines	Persimmons
Mexican Avocados	Carob
Macadamia	Calamondin
Plum	Capulin Cherry
Pears	Carissas
Chinese Chestnut	Cherry Plum
Jujubes	Kei Apple
Quince	

Trees which we have but have not yet been delivered to the Center:

Macadamia  
White Sapote  
Carissa  
Kei Apple

During the tree sale we expect to get:

Blueberries  
Peaches & Nectarines  
Mexican Avocado  
Pears  
Chinese Chestnut

We also have the following bare root trees on order to be delivered in mid January:

Lang Jujube, Li Jujube  
Chocolate Persimmon  
Giant Fuyu Persimmon

We expect some of our members to provide the following:

Bananas  
Papayas  
Carissas  
Carambolas

With all these trees, we may really expect our park to blossom!

## PLANT RAFFLE - September

Plant Name	Donor	Winner
Grumichama	RFCI	Pearl Nelson
Loquat seedling	RFCI	Gus Fleischman
Canistel seedling	Stark	Tom Goldsworthy
Plantain	Walter Vines	Roma Vaccaro
Plantain	Walter Vines	Louise Schmidt
Plantain	Walter Vines	Bruce Beasor
S.A. Pepper	B. Heath	L. Shipley
Pineapple	B. Heath	Gus Fleischman
Cavendish Banana	H. Klaus	A & L Stark

RECIPE OF THE MONTH (one of the many delicious dishes served at last month's pot luck luncheon)

## Blueberry Buckle (Bruce Beasor)

Combine: 3/4 cup sugar, 1/4 cup shortening, 1 egg

Add: 1/2 cup milk

Combine & add: 2 cups flour, 2 tsp baking powder, 1/2 tsp salt

Fold in 2/3 cups blueberries

Place in a 9" x 13" pan and add topping

For topping, combine: 3/4 cup sugar, 1/2 cup flour, 1 tsp cinnamon, 1/4 cup butter (softened)

Bake at 350° for 45 to 50 minutes.

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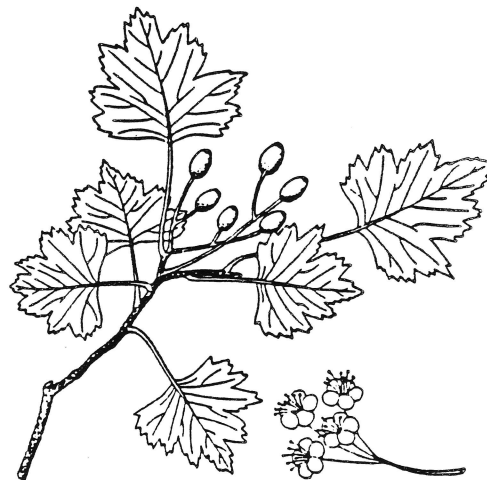
FLORIDA NATIVE FRUITING TREES No. 2PARSLEY HAWTHORN *Crataegus marshalli*

Member Rose Family (Rosaceae). Small tree 15 to 18 feet high with slender, often crooked trunk, grayish-brown, smooth, flaky bark, exposing patches of lighter inner bark; loose, irregular crown of small angular branches and twigs with slender spines.

Leaves glossy green with lighter underside, to one and one-half inch long, alternate, feathery-veined, five to seven lobes in margin, sharply notched with irregular depressions.

Flowers one-half inch wide with five white petals and pinkish stamens, borne in clusters on short hairy stem. Fruit edible, ripening in late summer about one-half inch long with bright yellowish-red skin and yellow flesh with up to three seeds.

Range south to central Florida.



\* \* \* \* \*



REUBEN, REUBEN

Reuben, Reuben, I've been thinking, what a fine world this would be  
If all the fruit in Costa Rica could be growing on my tree.

Reuben, Reuben, I've been thinking, how much more fruit there would be,  
If all the fruit of Carolina also grew upon my tree.

Reuben, Reuben, I've been thinking, all these wishes cannot be,  
We cannot grow them altogether, but why not plant them separately?

Reuben, Reuben, I've been hearing, a big tree sale there will be,  
October twenty, at the fairgrounds, sponsored by the R.F.C.

Carambola, Acerola, Tamarind, and blue-ber-ry,  
Papaya, Guava, Grum-i-chama, banana, fig, and Jujube.

Reuben, Reuben, I've been thinking, trees I've wanted very much,  
Apples, pears, plums and peaches, will give my yard that northern touch.

Reuben, Reuben, I've been thinking, lots of members working hard,  
Adding to the inventory of the trees in my own yard.

Reuben, Reuben, I've been thinking, folks will come from miles around,  
To get the mangos and feijoas, offered at the State Fairgrounds.

Reuben, Reuben, I'll be going, it will be a great affair,  
Trees and bushes, fruit and books, Reuben, we should both be there.

\* \* \* \* \*

TREE CARTS

We are in desperate need of four wheeled carts suitable for moving  
potted plants on Saturday, October 19, during set-up of the tree  
sale and on Sunday, October 20, for clean-up after the sale. Anyone  
who can lend carts should mark them clearly with their name and  
bring them to the fair grounds or call one of the officers to have  
them picked up. Last year we had use of the carts provided by the  
fair association. This year they are not available.

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MEMBER PARTICIPATION

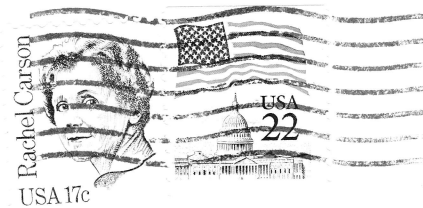
We would appreciate receiving reports from our members who are hav-  
ing success in fruiting various rare or common specimens. We know  
some of our members must be having some success and the rest of us  
would like to hear about it; types of fruit, methods employed,  
fertilizer programs, grafting or other propagating techniques, etc.  
Please sit down and tell us what you are doing. However humble,  
your efforts will be enjoyed and will tend to offer encouragement  
to us all.

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cold-hardy  
fruits  
at the RFCT  
tree sale!

Tampa Bay Chapter Newsletter  
Rare Fruit Council International  
P O Box 260363  
Tampa FL 33685



NEWCOMBE, P. JUDSON (\*)  
314 Deer Park  
Temple Terrace, FL 33617

See you Oct. 20 at our 6<sup>th</sup> annual tree sale  
at the State Fairgrounds!