



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1989

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

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(Including renewals)

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

NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 12, 1989

MEETING PLACE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY AGRICULTURAL
BUSINESS CENTER (COUNTY AG. AGENTS'
BUILDING, SEFFNER)

Take I-4 to Exit 8 South, State Road 579; go past traffic light at U.S. 92 intersection. Building is less than 1/2 mile on left (East) side of U.S. 92. Use parking lot. Meeting room in rear of building. Main door will probably be locked. Walk around.

PROGRAM This is a carryover from last month.
SKIP COE IS A MEMBER OF THE BONSAI SOCIETY. He will show us slides and speak on the making of Bonsai. He is an excellent speaker and will provide pointers which should be useful in dwarfing trees for small yards. Many fruiting trees such as the Jaboticaba can be used to make excellent bonsai plants. In addition we will have a short question and answer session with our local experts so bring your most pressing questions with you.

As usual, we will have our refreshment table and raffle.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are an equal opportunity, non-discriminatory organization. All are welcome as members and all members are invited to participate in club matters. Bring plants to our raffle, food to the tasting table. Be a member of the Board of Governors. Be a club officer. We need a corresponding secretary and a program director to plan meeting themes and speakers. Elections are coming up. We will need officers to manage our affairs for the next year. Please don't be shy. You are good enough to help.

PERSIMMONS

One specie of persimmons is native to the United States and though widely scattered in the native forests and eaten for years by people and possums, is still not well known.

There are 200 species in the genus Diospyros. Persimmons, black sapote, velvet apple are species widely grown for fruit. Others are grown in Asia. Diospyros virginiana is the native persimmon and is common through most of the eastern U.S. forests. Diospyros kaki is an exotic species from Asia and is cultivated in California and Florida for commercial use. Diospyros texana is native to Texas and almost unknown outside of Texas.

Some selections of Diospyros virginiana have been made and 12 varieties were listed by USDA in 1915. Yet the improved varieties are not commonly available in nurseries. The fruit is normally astringent, seedy and small. Named varieties have fewer seeds, larger fruit and some, very little astringency.

Diospyros virginiana will grow in most soils not waterlogged. Sandy soils seem to be most suitable and many trees are growing on and near the University of South Florida campus. The trees are host to tent caterpillars and other pests and diseases but do not seem to be greatly hampered by them. A long tap root makes transplanting difficult.

Pollination is complicated. Generally male and female flowers are on separate trees and must be grown together to produce fruit. However, some females produce male flowers and some apparently set fruit without pollination and produce seedless fruit. Male limbs can be grafted to female trees. Check with your supplier if you buy trees to insure you will get the right mix of trees to produce fruit. The fruit is astringent until soft ripe. The variety Morris Burton is said to be non-astringent.

Diospyros kaki has been cultivated for hundreds of years in northeast Asia and there are hundreds of named varieties. Fruit is much larger than Diospyros virginiana and some are non-astringent and can be eaten when crisp ripe like an apple. The fruit is dried in Asia to keep through the winter.

Fruit is available in Asian markets here. It also freezes very well. We have had some from Walter Vines at our meetings.

Most Diospyros kaki are self-fruitful but check before you buy. Most sold in the East are on Diospyros virginiana rootstock for nematode resistance. Check on this if you buy from California. They use Diospyros lotus or Diospyros kaki as a rootstock which is more suitable to dry soils.

Persimmons tend to drop fruit when under stress. Water and fertilizer evenly and use nitrogen sparingly on mature trees. Slow release or organic is best. I.F.A.S. recommends a balanced fertilizer at the rate of 1/2 to 1 pound per year of age up to a maximum of 8-10 pounds. In the first year use 1/2 to 1 pound in April or May, then half the fertilizer in January and the other half at the start of the rainy season in June.

Sources of persimmons are:

Chestnut Hill Nursery
Rt. 1, Box 341, Alachua, Fla. 32615

Persimmons, continued:

Edible Landscaping
Rt. 2, Box 77, Afton VA 22920

Gerardi Nursery
1700 E. Hwy 50, O'Fallon, IL 62269

John Gordon, Jr.
1385 Campbell Blvd., North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Jersey Chestnut Farm
58 Van Duyne Ave., Wayne, NJ 07470

Ty Ty South Orchards
Highway 82, Ty Ty, GA. 31795

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PROGRAM

Our speaker was called out of town unexpectedly on business the day before our meeting, and left us without a program speaker for the day. To fill in, we had a question and answer session which was of considerable interest to the members. Some of the questions and answers as remembered are listed below.

Question: What is the proper procedure for fertilizing lychees?

Answer: IFAS recommends light applications of fertilizer every 60 days for young trees. After trees are well established, one or two applications per year in deep soils or four or more in rocky soils, two pounds per year for every inch of trunk diameter of 6-2-6-3 formula fertilizer should be used with foliar sprays two or three times a year in calcareous soils.

Question: Is there any control for the Caribbean fruit fly?

Answer: The Caribbean fruit fly is a bad pest and getting worse with each warm winter. There are a couple of predatory wasps which feed on the fruit fly and these have been released in the area of Homestead but the result is not forthcoming at this point. There are no pesticides presently labeled for most tropical fruits. Malathion can be used where labeled. It should only be used after the bloom has fallen to avoid killing bees and other pollinators. Malathion must be sprayed on the fruit regularly, at least twice a week, over the life of the fruit, which, of course, becomes very tedious. Paper coated with material that is attractive to the fruit fly has been used but the results at this point are not conclusive. As of now, there doesn't seem to be a really good control of the Caribbean fruit fly.

Question: What causes citrus fruit to split?

Answer: Citrus fruit splitting is often caused by fruit subjected to an extended period of dry weather, after which heavy rains or extensive irrigation has caused the fruit to take up water, thereby splitting the skin which has hardened somewhat from the dry weather. Some varieties of citrus are more prone to splitting. Splitting also may be moderated somewhat by providing additional potassium in the fertilizer.

Question: How can you control aphids on your plants?

Answer: Aphids can certainly be very destructive and certainly need to be removed when they appear. Malathion is a very effective insecticide for aphids but it also will kill other insects which might be beneficial. On small plants, of course, you can simply rub them off. There are at least two insects that feed on aphids; one is the familiar lady bug which eats the aphids and can only be an effective control if you have a super-abundance of lady bugs. On the other hand, there is a minute wasp, smaller than a gnat, that lays its eggs in the aphid and in effect, destroys it. These wasps can provide up to 70% control if they are not killed off with Malathion.

Question: Can persimmons grow on low land on the banks of creeks or ponds?

Answer: We have seen native persimmons growing on the bank of wet weather creeks that are flooded as much as six months of the year, with the trunk of the tree no more than a foot above water level. Also we have seen persimmons grafted on Virginiana, growing near a pond with the grade no more than two feet above water level, the soil at that point being relatively sandy and well-drained. Apparently, the tap root can go down into the water table as long as the surface roots remain in well aerated soil.

* * *

Hospitality Table:

Strawberries.....	Al Hendry
Fruit Balls, Candied Kumquats, Saltines and Orange Juice.....	Bea Seekins
Banana Nut Cake and Fruit Bread.....	Janet Conard
Apple Cider.....	Monica Brandies
Carambola.....	Bob Heath
Guava Paste, Cream Cheese and Crackers.....	Lillian Stark
Cookies.....	????????????????
Toffee Praline Bars.....	Alicia Pruet

Recipe of the Month:

Toffee Praline Bars by Alicia Pruet

Arrange 1 package (not the entire box) of graham crackers + 2 additional crackers on a jelly roll pan. Preheat the oven to 325°. In a saucepan, boil 2 sticks of butter + 1/2 cup of sugar to 275° (using a candy thermometer). Add 1 cup of chopped nuts (try your homegrown pecans or macadamias - ed.) and 1 tsp. vanilla. Pour over graham crackers, and then place them in the oven for 10 - 12 minutes. Remove from the pan immediately, and cut into small fingers.

The following table on the use of various pesticides was compiled and generously provided by Lewis Maxwell. It will prove to be of great value to all of us. Thank You, Lewis.

Name	Alternate Name	Information	Use 1/20/87
Pesticide			
Aldicarb	Temik	Granuels use on soil	Insects, nematodes & Mites
Andre	AC 217,300 Maxforce	Baits	Fire and bait
Bagon	propoxur	Carbamate	Home & field pests. Fast knockdown
Di-Syston	disulfoton	Spray or in soil	Sucking insects & mites Systemic
Dursban	Chlorpyrifos	Spray or on soil	Insects home or garden
Metalddehyde	Metason	Attractant-toxicant	Slugs & Snails (Bait)
Mocap	Ethoprop	Soil	Nematodes & Mole crickets
Oftanol	Isofenphos	Soil	Mole crickets & lawn insects
Phorate	Thimet	Insects	Use with fertilizer or fungicides
Pyrethrum	Botanical insecticide	Organic insecticide	Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium
Thuricide	Dipel	Caterpillars only	Bacillus thuringiensis
Vydate	Oxamyl	Spray (systemic)	Miticide & insecticide
Zectran	Mexacarbate	Spray	Mites, snails.

Miticides			
Omite	Proparite	Mites long residual	Safe on bees & predatory mites
Plictran	Cyhexatin	Miticide	Kills resistant mites
Vendex	Torque	Miticide	Long residual control

Herbicides			
Balan	Benfluralin	Preemergent	To control annual weeds
Betasan	Benesulfide	Weed killer	Preemergence
Dicamba	Banvel	Weedkiller	Selective
Lasso	Alachlor	Preplant herbicide	Preemergence
Roundup	Glyphosate	Spray (Eradicant)	Non-selective Systemic
Trimec	2,4-D Plus Dicamba	Weed killer	Broad leaf herbicide (Bahia lawns)
Urox	Monuron	Soil sterilent	Non selective

Soil Fumigants			
Telone	Dichloropropene	Use in soil	Nemas, insects, fungi, weed seeds
Vapam	Metam-Sodium	Use in soil	Nemas, insects, fungi, weed seeds
Fungicides			
Banrot	Ethazol + Fungo	Use on soil	Broad spectrum soil fungicide
Dithane M-45	Mancozeb (Fore)	Spray	Broad use fungicide
Koban	Ethazol	Use on soil	Turf fungicide Pythium
Ridomyl MZ 58	Metalaxyl + mancozeb	Use on soil	Pythium & Phytophthora
Subdue	Metalaxyl	Use on soil	Pythium & Phytophthora
Terraclor PCNB	Pentachloronitrobenzene	Use on soil	Turf, root rots, damping off.
Terrazole	Ethazol, Koban, Truban	Use on soil	Pythium control at low rates
Truban	Ethazol	Use on soil	Pythium control at low rates
Bactericides			
Agri-mycin	Agri-strep	Sprays	Streptomycin sulphate
Copper (neutral)	Basic copper sulphate	Sprays	Basic copper sulphate Plus Maneb

January Plant Drawing:

PLANT *****	DONOR *****	WINNER *****
Blueberry	Bob Heath	Glen Myrie
Red Passionfruit	Bob Heath	Frank Honeycutt
Yellow Passionfruit	Bob Heath	JoAnn Cimino
Purple Passionfruit	Bob Heath	Monica Brandies
Cherry of the Rio Grande	Bob Heath	Al Hendry
Loquat	Frank Honeycutt	Monica Brandies
Loquat	Frank Honeycutt	Gloria Obiena
Loquat	Frank Honeycutt	Lydia Oratowski
1 dozen eggs (chicken & duck)	Arnold & Lillian Stark	Greg Andrews

If you look at the above listing, you will notice that only 3 donors are listed. That is why there was such a limited selection for this month's drawing. RFCI needs you to help make our monthly drawings succesful. Please share some of your plants and/or produce with us, and help make our meetings an all year round success.

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