



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1992

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

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: BOB HEATH
THERESA HEATH
ARNOLD STARK
LILLIAN STARK

PRESIDENT: LILLIAN STARK CHAPTER MAIL ADDRESS: 313 PRUETT RD., SEFFNER FL. 33584
(INCLUDING RENEWALS)

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

NEXT MEETING APRIL 12, 1992

MEETING PLACE RARE FRUIT COUNCIL CLUBHOUSE. 313 PRUETT
ROAD, SEFFNER. Take I-4 to Exit 8 North,
S.R. 579, go one mile to Pruett (see
McDonald School sign). Turn right (East).
Go one mile. See clubhouse on left
immediately past McDonald School.

PROGRAM ANDREW ROSE WILL TALK ON THE DELICIOUS
PINEAPPLE. Mr. Rose is the Extension
Service Director in Citrus County and is
an authority on pineapples, so this should
be an interesting presentation. Pineapples
are among the fruit that we should all be
growing because they are so easy and so
delicious.
We shall also have our tasting table and
raffle and a beautiful tree for auction.

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NEW BOARD:

The membership has elected the following members to serve on the Board of Directors
for the coming year:

Sherry Baker	Charles Novak	Alternate: Robert Baker
Alice Burhenn	Al Roberts	
Frank Burhenn	Arnold Stark	
Janet Conard	Lillian Stark	
Edith Freedman	Frank Tintera	
Bob Heath	Walter Vines	
Al Hendry	Paul Zmoda	
Frank Honeycutt		

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New Officers:

The new Board of Directors has elected the following officers for the coming year:

President:	Lillian Stark
Vice Presidents:	Bob Heath, Arnold Stark
Treasurer:	Alice Burhenn
Recording Secretary	Sherry Baker
Corresponding Secretary	Charles Novak
Plant Exchange:	Frank Honeycutt, Mabel Galbreath, Janet Conard
Seed Committee:	Charles Novak, Paul Zmoda, Frank Burhenn
Library:	Frank Burhenn
Tasting Table:	Janet Conard, Al Roberts
Plant Sale:	Bob Heath, Arnold Stark
Program:	Al Hendry, Paul Zmoda
Property Planting:	Bob Heath

NOTE: WE DESPERATELY NEED A MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN. PLEASE CONSIDER THE POSITION AND VOLUNTEER AT THE NEXT MEETING.

Tasting Table: March

Stark: Carambola Nut Bread and Carambola slices
 da Costa: Cream cheese miniatures with Guava Jelly
 Al Roberts: Papaya juice
 Maggie Maquet: Coconut Bars
 Burhenn: Cheese Danish, Maple-Walnut Danish
 N. McCormack: Lady finger Bars and Carambola
 Maya Byvoet: Dried Lychee

Thank You Thank You Thank You

To Frank & Alice Burhenn for the lovely White Sapote plant for auction. Karl Rossa was the lucky bidder.

To Sherry Dodson for setting up at the Pinellas County fair a display (created by Lillian Stark) which told about our club and its activities.

Recipe of the Month: coconut Bars (Maggie Maquet)

1/3 cup margarine	1 tsp vanilla
1 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar	1/2 tsp salt
1 1/4 cup flour	1 cup chopped nuts
2 eggs	1 can flaked coconut

Cream together margarine and 1/2 cup brown sugar. Add 1 cup flour. Mix well and pat into a 13 1/2 X 9 X 2 baking pan. Bake at 375° for 12 minutes.

Mix together 1 cup brown sugar and 1/4 cup flour. Blend in eggs, vanilla and salt. Fold in nuts and coconut. Spread mixture evenly over baked crust. Bake at 375° for 15 minutes. Cool and cut into bars and enjoy.

New Members:

Jack & Alice Price, 9436 Eddings Road Odessa, FL 33556 (813)920-4164

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA PLANT FESTIVAL

The RFCI Tampa Bay Chapter needs some participation in the USF Plant Festival to be held Saturday, April 18. We will need 10 to 15 people to participate for the entire day or any part thereof. We will also need plants for sale and display. We would suggest seedling surinam cherries, loquats, Cattley guavas, guavas, mulberries, etc. and air layered or rooted cuttings of any other fruiting plants that are available. It is important that merchandise forms be filled out to keep track of your selling prices, and that all plants be labeled as far as variety and selling price. The Gardens will be open at dawn for set-up on Saturday morning, and the public will be allowed in at 10:00. The merchandise forms will be available at the next meeting and at the plant festival. Samples of fruit will also be welcome for display. We welcome all members to come to the plant festival for either entertainment or for working. We believe the festival will provide a considerable amount of both, as well as new members and much needed cash for the Club.

EXCERPT FROM USF HORTICULTURAL NEWSLETTER:

Our next plant festival is set for Saturday, April 18 (10 am - 4 pm), so it's time to begin planning. Please note that this date coincides with Passover and is the day before Easter. I apologize to any of your members who may not be able to participate because of this. April is a very busy month and there were important conflicting events on the other potential dates. I was therefore unable to change the date.

Please ask your members to help distribute the flier - to bulletin boards at community centers, churches, schools, libraries, shopping centers, work places, etc. Please also help us to get notices into local newspapers and newsletters or organizations you belong to. I especially need your help in eastern and southern Hillsborough County, Pinellas County and other neighboring counties.

Please note that we will try to give each group similar space to what it had last year, but most of you will be somewhat displaced in order to provide more room for each group, to accommodate several new groups, and to facilitate smoother traffic flow. I have enclosed a map of the festival area, with the areas available for groups to set up in marked A thru P. I have penciled in your group's tentative assignment.

If the natural shade in your area is inadequate, we recommend setting up some temporary shade structures, with tarps, 4x4 posts, etc. The Palm Society did this quite successfully last year, and we will be doing it for the Botanical Garden's sale area. There are even some inexpensive canopy devices that you can buy. These might be worthwhile if you're going to participate every year. We will provide whatever assistance we can in this regard.

April 11, the Saturday before the plant festival, is designated as a work day specifically to prepare for the festival. This will be a good time to set up any shading structures, and to do any necessary weeding or tree-trimming in your area. We may need some help with other aspects of Garden clean-up.

Please also consider getting your tables, other furnishings, and plants, if possible, set up on Friday evening. It will lessen the confusion on Saturday morning. However, you also have from dawn to 10 am to set up on Saturday morning. The front gate will be locked at 9 am, after that use the rear gate (shown on the map) for entering or leaving.

* * *

GRAFTING

Grafting is a method of joining a part of one plant with another in a way that will cause them to unite and grow as a single unit. Since any mechanical means which achieves proper contact between parts of two different plants may lead to a successful graft, it follows that practically unlimited methods of grafting are available. However, we are concerned here with the simpler and more common means of grafting as shown in Figures 1 through 5.

Grafting of deciduous trees such as apples, peaches, pecans, jujubes and persimmons is normally done during the dormant season, preferably immediately before the tree is due to bud out. Non-deciduous trees such as oranges, loquats, carambolas, may be grafted at any time during the year when new growth is imminent. Avocados are normally grafted late in the winter just before spring growth begins. There are many reasons for grafting but the most common is probably to propagate a desirable plant by joining small portions on to an established seedling tree. With certain plants, propagation by rooting of cuttings may be more satisfactory but with most fruit trees, grafting has many advantages. Since seedlings from desirable fruiting trees frequently results in undesirable fruit, some methods of propagation which preserves the quality of the fruit is necessary. Only plants with close botanical relationship can be grafted successfully; unrelated plants have physiological differences which prevent a union. Viruses also may cause a grafting failure. A successful graft can only be obtained when the scion is oriented as it normally grows. The scion fitted upside down on a root stock will not grow properly.

The established plant or seedling onto which a graft is made is called the root stock. The portion of the desirable fruiting tree being grafted onto the root stock is called the scion. In making the graft, it is important that the scion be protected from drying both before and after joining. This is usually done by covering the exposed surfaces of the scion with a plastic bag or grafting tape, entirely covering the scion. After grafting it is important that the soil moisture be kept relatively high. If the root system of the root stock is allowed to dry out grafting will be a failure. It is important that the graft union be a clean snug fit with intimate contact of the cambium layers in both the scion and root stock. Wrapping the union with grafting tape provides this intimate contact as well as providing support for the scion on the root stock.

Splice Graft. This method is the simplest way to join scion to root stock. Stock and scion should be of equal thickness, from 1/8" to 1/2" in diameter. Make a long diagonal cut of equal length on the scion and root stock. Fit cut surfaces together and use grafting tape to hold the parts together as shown in Fig. I. As the scion and root stock are the same size, the cambium layers should match exactly. Allow at least two active buds in the scion wood and cover the entire scion with a plastic bag until the scion buds out.

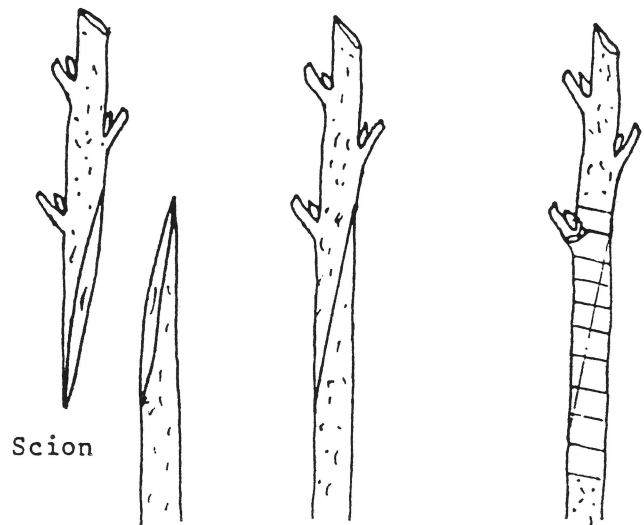


Fig. I Splice Graft

Whip & Tongue Graft. This is one of the most commonly used and useful grafts for woody plants. It is used for top working and producing new plants primarily on deciduous trees. It works best with stock and scion or equal diameter and less than 1/2" in thickness. Make a long diagonal cut in both the scion and stock as in the splice graft. Make the second or tongue cut on stock and scion by splitting at the center of the first cut down through the center core of the stem until the split is opposite the base of the first cut. After the tongues are cut, pry open the tongues and insert into each other until they are interlocked as shown in Fig. II. Secure the parts by wrapping tightly with grafting tape. If the scion is smaller than the stock, fit the tongues together so that the outside surface of the stock and one side of the scion are aligned. Cover the entire scion with a plastic bag until the buds sprout.

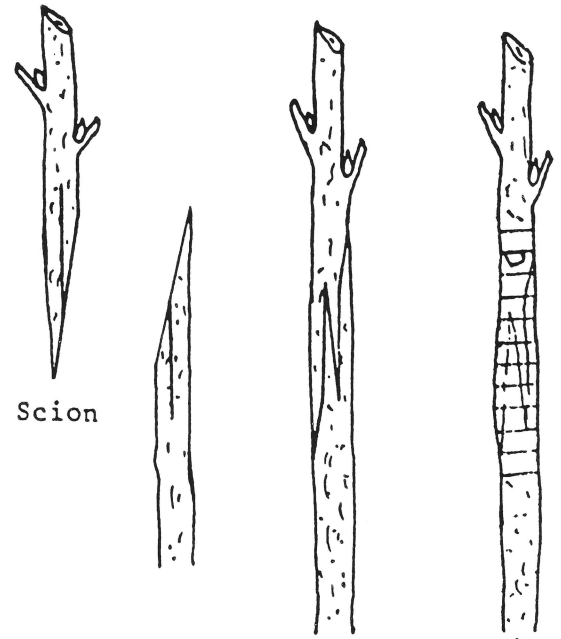


Fig. II Whip & Tongue Graft

Cleft Graft. Cleft grafting is a very simple and commonly used grafting method. The scion may be anywhere from 1/8" to 1/2" in diameter and should have two to three active buds. The stock may be from 1/8" to 4" in diameter. Cut off the root stock at a right angle in relation to its main axis. Use a knife for small stock and a clefting tool for large stock to split the stock down the center for 1 to 3 inches. If the stock is large, it may be necessary to drive a wedge down the center of the stock to open the split to receive the scion. If the scion is within half the diameter of the root stock, only one scion will be used. If the scion is less than half the diameter of the root stock, two scions will be used. The scion is tapered as shown in Fig. III. Insert the wedge of the scion into the stock so that the cambium layers are in contact on one side or both. The scion should completely fill the split in the root stock so that contact exists along the length of the entire wedge. Wrap the union with grafting tape and cover the entire scion with a plastic bag.

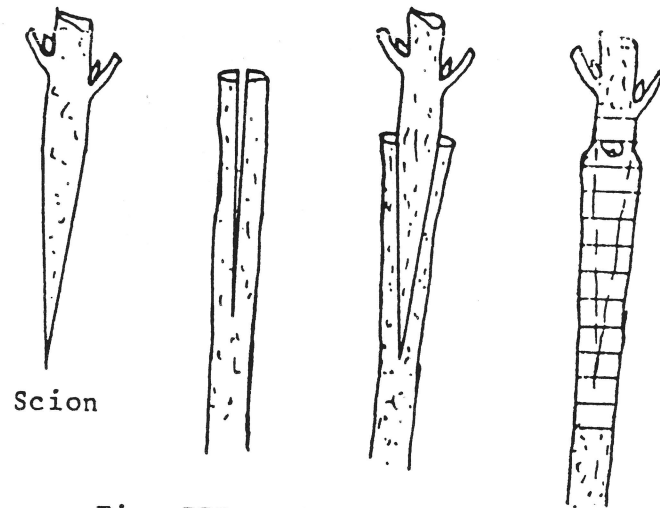


Fig. III Cleft Graft

Side Graft. The side graft may be used for producing new plants and is very successful on citrus, avocados, carambolas, loquats, etc. It provides for a large surface of cambium contact and for this reason a union is most likely to occur. Make a rather shallow cut about 1-1/2" to 2" long on the side of the stock, cutting slightly inward as the cut is made. At the base of this cut, make a short inward and downward cut to intersect with the first cut, thus allowing removal of a piece of wood and bark. It is preferable that the stock and scion be relatively the same size. The depth of the cut in the stock will be dependent upon the size of the scion wood. Prepare the scion

with a long cut the same length and width as that of the first cut on the stock. Make a short cut on the opposite side of the base of the scion to match that in the root stock. Insert the scion in the root stock as shown in Fig. IV. Secure the scion by wrapping with tape and covering the scion wood with a plastic bag. It is not necessary to top the root stock until the scion buds begin to grow.

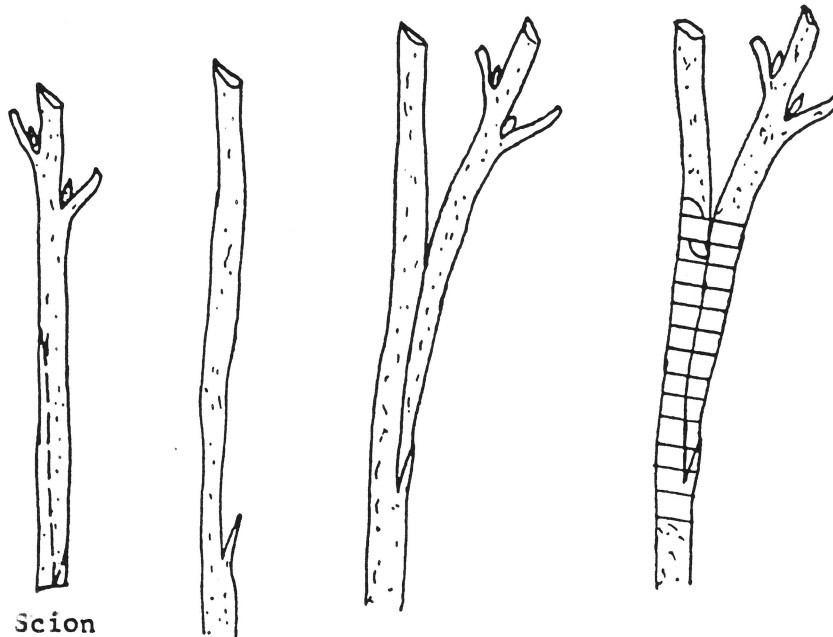


Fig. IV Side Graft

Approach Graft. The approach graft is used to graft together two plants while both remain on their own roots. This is particularly advantageous in grafting plants that are exceptionally hard to graft. It affords the least shock to the scion wood and is almost 100% effective. The scion in this case is usually a limb of a tree growing in the ground. The root stock is normally in a pot which can be tied up to the growing tree so that the scion limb is adjacent to the seedling tree in the pot. A single long smooth cut is made on adjacent surfaces of the scion and root stock. The cuts are brought together and wrapped tightly with grafting tape. No additional treatment is necessary with the exception of maintaining the moisture in the potted plant. After the graft union is assured, the top of the potted plant is removed and the potted plant is cut loose from the tree below the graft union as shown in Fig. V.

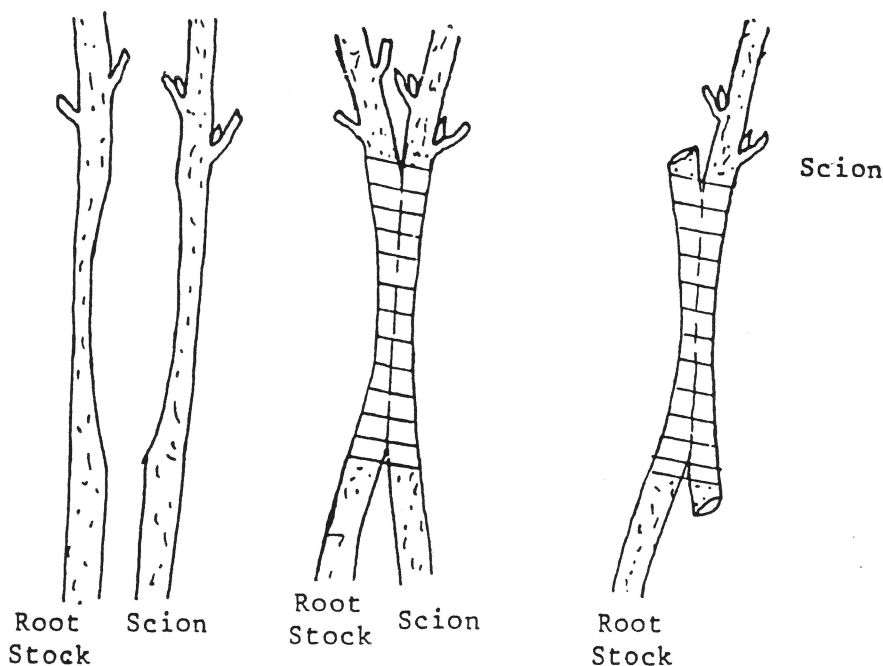


Fig. V Approach Graft

For additional information on grafting, see the following:

"They Why and How of Home Horticulture" by D.R. Bienz;
W.H. Freeman and Co., San Francisco.

"The Grafter's Handbook" by R. J. Garner; Oxford University Press, New York.

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TOOTIE FRUITY

How does your little garden grow?
 Take pen in hand and let us know.
 Tell us of your fruit delicious -
 Or was your fruit all merely wishes?

Write about all your successes
 Or even write about your messes.
 Pears and plums and nectarines,
 Sugar peas and yard long beans.

All fruit recipes, nutritious,
 Send us in your favorite dishes.
 Tell us how you manage bugs
 And eliminate them garden slugs.

Antique methods or new creations
 For growing gorgeous vegetations.
 Have you planted some rare seed,
 Then pulled it out, "It's just a weed"?

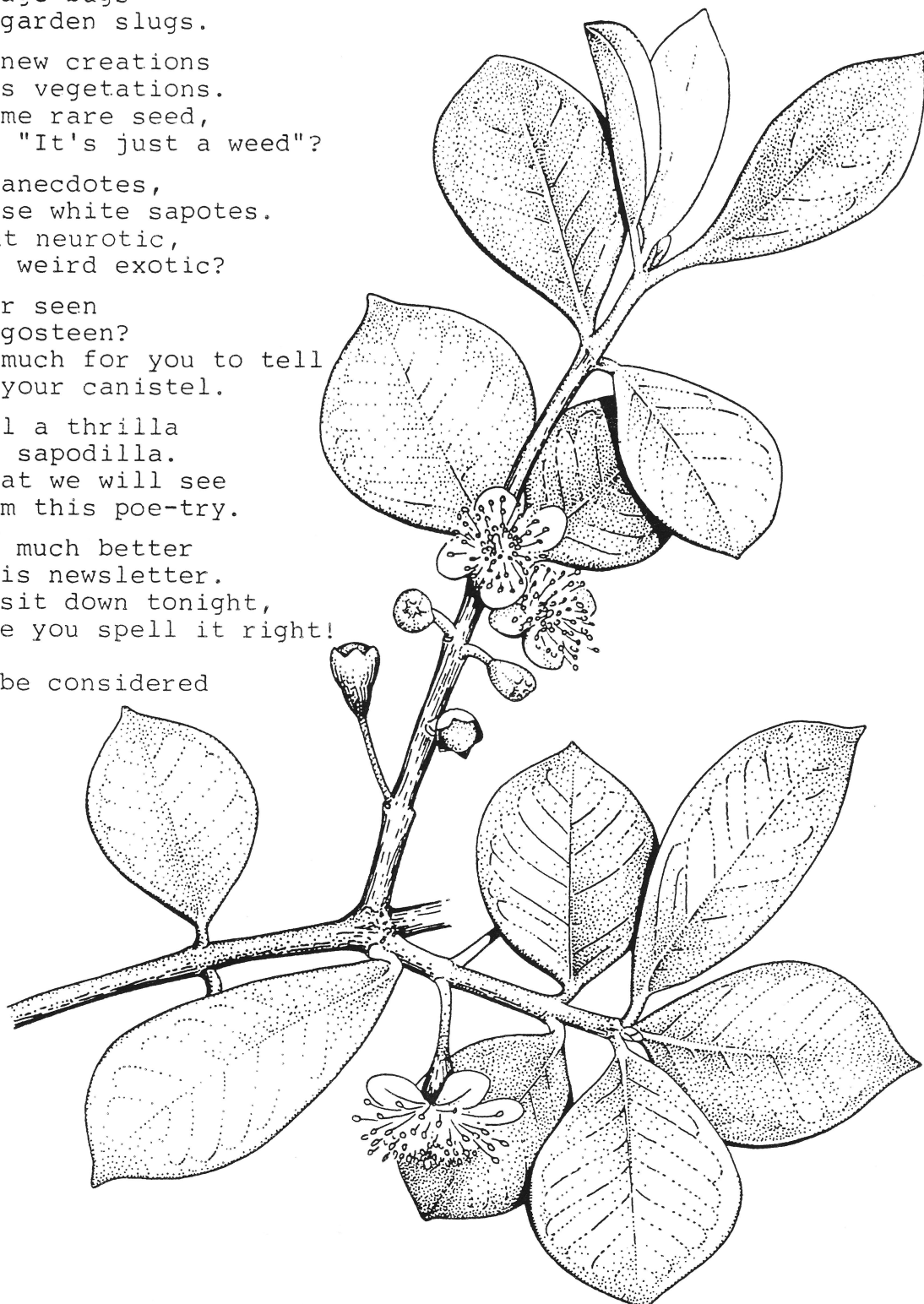
Planting hints and anecdotes,
 On how you grew those white sapotes.
 Do you feel somewhat neurotic,
 Trying to grow that weird exotic?

Have any of you ever seen
 A Tampa-growing mangosteen?
 We're sure there's much for you to tell
 'Bout how you grow your canistel.

It would give us all a thrilla
 To learn about your sapodilla.
 We hope some day that we will see
 Your fruit grow from this poe-try.

If your mango grows much better
 Send a photo for this newsletter.
 Just write it out, sit down tonight,
 But please make sure you spell it right!

(All articles will be considered
 for publication.)



Plant Exchange: March

Plant	Donor	Winner
Surinam Cherry	Janet Conard	John Jenkins
Surinam Cherry	Janet Conard	Audrey Rossa
Hot Peppers (x 2)	Lloyd Shipley	Al Hendry
Roselle	Heath	Audrey Rossa
Roselle	Heath	Maya Byvoet
Jelly Palm	Heath	Amyot
Passion Fruit	Heath	Alice Miller
R.I. Red Hen Fruit	Frank da Costa	Nancy McCormack
Ponderosa Lemon(2)	Merrill	?
Pomegranate	Zmoda	A. Burhenn
Celeste Fig	Honeycutt	J. Jenkins
Celeste Fig	Honeycutt	Bob Baker
Celeste Fig	Honeycutt	Amyot
Cowart Muscadine	Honeycutt	Maya Byvoet
Magnolia	A. Burhenn	Maya Byvoet
Star Fruit	?	Bob Wente
Fig	?	Al Jean
Papaya Fruit	Max Means	?

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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