



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 1993

**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 14, 1993

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

PROGRAM: GROWING AND USING HERBS BY KAY CUDE. Kay Cude is an authority on herbs, their culture and use. She will enlighten us on the growing of these indispensable contributions to fine eating and their use in the preparation of delicious dishes. This should be a very informative and interesting program. Also, our meeting will include the usual raffle and tasting table. We invite all our members to contribute to both.

Thank You Thank You Thank You

To Bill Lessard and Bob Baker for donating the seven banana plants for auction. The successful bidders were: Evelyn Reda, Karl Rossa, Alice Burhenn, Mark Bennett, Walter Vines, Chris Tully, and Jim Murrie.

Notes of Interest

For those members who wished to obtain Bill Lessard's catalog, you may write to him at:
19201 S.W. 248 Street, Homestead, FL 33031.
Phone: (305)247-0397 or (305)248-2666

Tom Economou announces two (2) exciting tours going to the Chelsea English Gardens Show, May 15 thru May 29, and touring England, Scotland & Wales. One tour is to be led by Gene Joyner, and the other by Dee & Gil Whitton. For information/reservations call Tom at 1-800-675-7489 or (305)285-7173.

Dr. Fred Essig of the USF Botanical Gardens will be leading a tour of Holland at Tulip time from May 5 thru May 13. For more information call Sunshine State Tours (813)963-5566 or 1-800-926-1875

Ed Kraujalis wrote us that he will have Mangosteen seeds available this summer. Call, evenings, (813)458-1879, or write 1311 SE 14th Terrace, Cape Coral, FL 33990-3721.

LET'S GO BANANAS! by BILL LESSARD

Bill Lessard is an amateur banana grower who, by dint of an abiding interest and considerable time and expense, has become somewhat of an authority on the history, culture and eating of bananas. It seems that bananas have always held a particular fascination for most people, which may account for this being the largest turnout at any of our meetings.

The banana is almost the perfect fruit and it responds very quickly to any care that we might give it. The banana has an extremely short life cycle in that each individual plant normally lives no more than about 12 months. If grown properly and well, it sprouts from the ground and grows, it produces and it is harvested, and finally dies in all of a 12 month period. The banana plant, of course, is not a tree, although it's usually referred to as a tree. It is better described as a corm. It's actually a monocot, a large herbaceous plant consisting of a single growing point, the apical meristem. From the meristem grows the large leaves which begin as curved sheaths that completely encircle the pseudo stem. The leaf flares at the top to form the apparent leaf. Suckers grow from axillary buds which emerge from the lower portion of the corm. After the pseudo stem of the banana plant has fulfilled its function of bearing fruit, that particular part of the plant dies and the new suckers go on to replace the old banana stem. The suckers are used for propagating the banana. A sword sucker 2 to 3 feet tall should be separated from the mother plant by digging down and cutting the sucker off with a shovel. The sucker should have a good healthy corm and roots. The banana should be planted in full sun in soil that is rich but has good drainage. The banana likes plenty of water but not wet feet. Also, a site protected from the wind is a good idea since heavy winds tend to shred the leaves and eventually topple the plant. The planting hole should be large enough to give the roots plenty of room for development and the banana plant should be set in the hole approximately 8" down. The roots do not grow very deep but they can grow up to 12 or 15 feet horizontally from the plant. Manure should never be used directly in the hole because even if it is well composted, it tends to hold too much moisture and breeds fungus. However, once the banana plant is established and growing, the use of well composted manure is encouraged as a top dressing. Peat moss, manure, composted mulch should be used in an area around the banana tree as a weed suppressant and as a soil amendment. The pH of the soil does not seem to be of much importance to the banana. Bill says he's seen bananas growing well in soils with a pH of 11 and with a pH as low as 4.5. A little salt doesn't seem to bother the banana either as long as it's not too concentrated.

The leaves should be cut from the spear when the banana is first planted and water should be used sparingly since the new banana plant has no roots and no leaves and is not capable of moving water through its system; it can only absorb it, which causes fungus growth and it may turn brown and slowly decay and die. The plant should only be watered every 2 or 3 days after the initial watering and a little fungicide such as copper sulfate or Benlate is beneficial in the water. After a leaf or two develops, you know that the plant has developed roots and at this point you may begin to water every day and fertilize monthly. Remember that when the banana is small it can only use a little fertilizer, about 1/2 pound a month for a plant 2 or 3 feet tall. As the plant gets larger, it can use up to two pounds of fertilizer a month without hurting the plant, spread over the entire root system and watered in every day. For the first application, use a balanced fertilizer such as 6-6-6 or 10-10-10, but after the initial application, switch to a fertilizer on the order of 9-3-27, a low phosphorus, about 3 times as much nitrogen and about 9 times as much potassium is ideal. But the important thing is to give them something.

As the plant grows, it will begin to produce some suckers. These suckers should be controlled to allow no more than 3 or 4 plants to be growing in a mat at any one time. Good sucker management will allow the mat to have one plant fruiting,

one plant $\frac{3}{4}$ grown, one plant $\frac{1}{4}$ grown and one sucker just peeping from the soil. Control the mat by cutting away unwanted suckers at ground level, leaving the bottom part to help support the parent plant. The number of healthy leaves on a banana plant at inflorescence is important. To properly nourish a raceme of bananas, a plant should have 10 or more healthy leaves. With fewer leaves, the fruit will not fill out as well. If the number of leaves is less than 10, there is something wrong; the plant is hungry or thirsty, or the roots are in poor condition due to fungus, nematodes or corm borers, so the plant is unable to take up available nutrients. It may also be caused by cold weather.

As the head of fruit grows in a fruiting banana plant, it may be necessary to prop up the plant because the plant may not be able to carry the weight of the bananas and will snap off or topple at the root. It usually takes about 2 to 3 months to mature a head of fruit, once it has emerged into the air, assuming the temperature has been warm. If the temperature has been cool it will take longer, and below 50° the fruit may not develop properly.

After the fruit is harvested, cut away the plant at the ground and the stump will slowly dry up, leaving a rotted hole in the center of the mat. The decayed stump should be taken out and dirt added to the hole, otherwise it is an invitation to fungus and other pests.

Nematodes are a serious pest of some banana varieties and can cause a slow decline in vigor and eventual death of an entire mat. Nematodes are microscopic, vegetarian round worms that eat the banana roots. The Raja Puri and the Mysore are two banana varieties that resist nematodes. There are chemicals that will kill nematodes and are labeled for bananas and may be used legally on them. Bill recommended Furadan, Mocap or Nematicur as effective nematode controls.

The banana corm borer is another insect that attacks the banana corm. This is a beetle about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long that spends its entire life in a banana patch. When a female corm borer finds a banana plant it lays eggs at the base of the corm at ground level. They hatch and grubs immediately bore into the corm. Inside the corm the grubs begin to grow and travel erratically throughout the corm, severely reducing its function. If the grub should happen to wander through the apical meristem of the plant, the plant will die.

The most threatening organism to attack bananas is the fungus commonly referred to as Panama disease, which is one of the major concerns in banana growing countries. The four races of Panama disease are named simply 1, 2, 3 and 4. The Gros Michelle was the mainstay of the banana industry in the Americas before the Panama disease race 1 was introduced. As plantations were decimated, the Cavendish types, Valery Robusta and Gran Naine, were planted as replacements because of their resistance to Panama disease race 1 and 2. Race 2 attacks the Apple, Ice Cream and Orinoco bananas. Panama disease is a fungus and can be spread by spores but it seems to be spread mainly by contaminated tools, machetes, saws, digging tools, which provide direct inoculation of the disease. If Panama disease is noticed in a banana planting, the affected plant should be immediately removed, including every part of the mat and the individual plants, roots and all. Remove the plant entirely from the area and then sterilize any tools that might have come into contact with the affected plants. A 10% solution of household bleach is a satisfactory sterilizer. The first indication of Panama disease is a black infected area of the pseudo stem at or near ground level. Eventually the whole mat of plants will turn yellow and die. If Panama disease is suspected, cut off the plant close to the ground level and look for dark red or brown lesions arranged in semi circles in the lower interior of the stem.

Sigatoka is another disease that is causing a great deal of trouble in Central and South America. It is caused by the fungus *cercospora musae*. There are two strains, yellow sigatoka and black sigatoka. Both cause spots to form on the leaves of the

banana and decreases the number of healthy leaves, causing decreased production and eventual death of the mat. The disease is treated with Benomil and several other brands of fungicide, which are usually used alternately to keep the disease from building up resistance to any one fungicide.

Bill has grown over 50 varieties of bananas for at least the last 10 years, some as long as 20 years, and has found many to recommend. He showed us slides of all the various species of bananas which he described.

Ae Ae. Bill called the Ae Ae, also known as Koae or Vittata one of the most beautiful plants he had ever seen. The variegated green and white plant grows 16 to 20 feet tall with wide leaves 6 to 7 feet long. The fruit is variegated also, lengthwise, about 6 to 8" long. It retains the striped appearance as it ripens with dark and light yellow stripes. The flesh is a light orange color, intermediate between a plantain and a dessert banana, so it may be eaten out of hand when ripe, or cooked when less ripe. The variegation is somewhat unstable and the amount of white tends to vary in response to pH of the soil and fertility conditions. When the soil is infertile or too alkaline, the new suckers tend to be more white than green and sometimes pure white. Pure white plants tend to die when separated from the parent plant because of a complete lack of chlorophyll. When suckers are removed, they should be at least 50% green to assure a strong plant. The plant seems to thrive best in a partial shady condition with plenty of moisture and good draining. It is only a vigorous grower when it is properly nourished and solid green.

The Apple banana is grown throughout the tropics of the world, from Thailand to the deep jungles of the Amazon. It is a diploid, but seedless, as it bears sterile female flowers. It has a short plump fruit and is frequently called a lady finger. The pump usually has a distinct apple flavor which is quite pleasing if the fruit is allowed to ripen fully before eating. The plant is cold hardy down to 32° but frost on the leaves will cause them to turn brown. It grows 12 to 14 feet tall and puts on rather small heads of fruit in most cases. The Apple banana is susceptible to Panama disease race 2 and is attacked by nematodes and corm borers.

Rhino Horn is a banana of medium height from 10 to 14'. It is a true plantain and produces 2 to 4 hands of fruit and has no male flowers. When the female flowers finish opening, the stem just kind of dwindles away; there are no hermaphroditic flowers and no male flowers. The Rhino Horn comes from eastern Africa and fruits in the manner of a true horned plantain, hanging at about a 45° angle to the ground. The fruit are a light yellow green color when the flower opens and are about 12 to 14" long. They have been known to grow to 2' long and weigh as much as 3 pounds each. The plant is quite attractive with a lot of red color in the pseudostem and a red mid rib in the leaf. Juvenile leaves have a certain amount of red markings on the upper side. The plant is slender and tends to make an extraordinary number of suckers, although only a few are apically dominant. Excess suckers should be cleared away regularly. The Rhino Horn is resistant to Panama disease but nematodes and corm borers seem to enjoy the taste of the plants and attack them in preference to most other bananas.

The Brazilian banana is a tall banana growing to 20'. The trunk and leaves are completely green with long wide leaves extending from 7 to 8' from the pseudostem. The fruit is short and very sweet but the heads are not large. The plant is very majestic because of its large size and is quite wind tolerant due to a strong root system. The fruit may be allowed to ripen on the plant without splitting and when they are ripe, the plant may be given a hard shake which will dislodge the fruit and rain them down on the shaker. The male flower of the Brazilian banana is quite tasty when cooked and eaten in a salad. The Brazilian banana is also subject to mutation tendencies and produces a dwarf plant at 8 to 10' with more compact heads of fruit, although with the same shape and taste as its taller progenitor. The Brazilian banana is resistant to Panama disease and is not preferred by nematodes and corm borers.

The Dwarf Cavendish is one of the first bananas introduced into Florida from China and most of the bananas of commerce today are derived from mutations of the initial Cavendish introductions, namely the Valery, Gran Naine and Williams. The Dwarf Cavendish is a short plant, fruiting at 5 to 7', is very wind resistant due to its short stature, but should be propped up when it is fruiting because it produces large heads of fruit. The fruit is subject to the disease called "cigar end rot" which is a fungus disease easily controlled by mild fungicidal sprays. The mutants that are grown for commerce do not have this problem. The Dwarf Cavendish is resistant to Panama disease races 1 and 2, but is susceptible to race 4. Nematodes and corm borers will attack it also.

The Red Banana is grown throughout the tropics of the world and is known by a vast array of different names, "Indio", "Cuban Red", "Morado" and "Jamaican Red". In Hawaii it is called Hawaiian Red. Bill prefers the Costa Rican name for it, "Macaboo". From the original Macaboo which grows to about 16 or 18' came the eventual dwarf mutation in the form that grows to about 8 to 10'. As is often the case, the dwarf produces larger heads than its tall progenitor. The Dwarf Macaboo is a very desirable plant, produces consistently and stands up to the wind well. The fruit is top quality, sweet and moist with a buttery consistency. It does not produce very large heads but the fruit is medium sized and fat with a dark red, almost purple, skin and flesh of the normal banana color. The Macaboo prefers rich soil and a pH below 7 but will survive and produce smaller heads at a higher pH.

Fehi or Fe'i is one of the few edible Australimusas and it must be cooked before it is eaten. It grows to about 12 to 14' and in its native Tahiti, it may reach 20'. The trunk is very dark, almost black. The leaves are long, narrow and pointed at the tip. The sap of the plant is a bright crimson purple, is indelible and is sometimes used as a dye. The flower is unusual in that the emerging flower is bright green and as the female flowers open, the fruit is copper colored. As is the case with all Australimusas, the fruit does not hang pendant but grows straight up. The flavor is rather sweet before it is cooked but is even sweeter after it is baked. The consistency is custard like and the effect is of a very delicious fruit. Suckers are rarely produced close to the plant, running away for a foot or so before they turn and grow upward.

The Golden Aromatic is native to southern China and Bill indicated that Mr. John Townsend, who introduced it into Hawaii, sent him a plant about 10 years ago. In China it is known as the Go San Heong but Bill has renamed it with a western name, "The Golden Aromatic", because of its strong, pleasant fragrance. The tree grows to about 12' with a trunk that is rather slender. The trunk is marked with a slight amount of dark mottling at the juncture of the pseudostem and leaf. Moderate sized heads of long fingers are produced. They have a creamy consistency and very sweet taste. The flavor is also enhanced by the delightful aroma. It is recommended for back yard planting but because of its slender stem, needs to be provided with support. It is resistant to Panama disease but is subject to attack by corm borers and nematodes.

Gros Michelle was the mainstay of the banana industry for many years. It is a very delicious banana but it has several faults that account for its demise in the commercial banana industry. It is susceptible to Panama disease Race 1 and is very tall growing, up to 20' which gives it a tendency to fall over or snap under the weight of its large heads of fruit. The Gros Michelle is also known as the Bluefield and there is also a dwarf form called the Highgate or Cocos. The dwarf plant grows to about 8 or 10' tall and has a stout trunk. The fruit is every bit as delicious as its tall progenitor. In addition to susceptibility to Panama disease, it is subject to attack by nematodes and corm borers.

The Hua Moa is a plantain that grows to 14'. It has dark green foliage and is a sturdy plant with a thick trunk. The fruit of the Hua Moa can grow to 3" or more

in diameter and 10 to 11" long. It was originally from Tahiti and was introduced to the United States in 1960 by William Whitman. Bill has been growing it since 1969 on his plantation from whence it was introduced to the Cuban community in the Miami area for use as a frying banana. The Hua Moa falls in between a plantain and a banana. Its texture has no fiber and when fried it is delicious. It quickly replaced Orinoco as the banana of choice for frying. They are also very good baked either ripe or green. The plant tends to be cold sensitive but is resistant to Panama disease, and is attacked by both the corm borer and nematodes, and also the stalk borer. The fruit must be harvested before it ripens or it will split. It is also excellent eaten out of hand.

The Ice Cream banana grow to 16' when well raised. It is solid green with no red coloring except on the bottom of the leaf midrib. Its fruit has a bluish tint when unripe but turns light yellow when ripe. The pulp is snowy white and delicious. The plant is a vigorous grower, adapted to most soils, and is quite cold hardy. It is susceptible to Panama disease Race 2 and is also attacked by nematodes and corm borers.

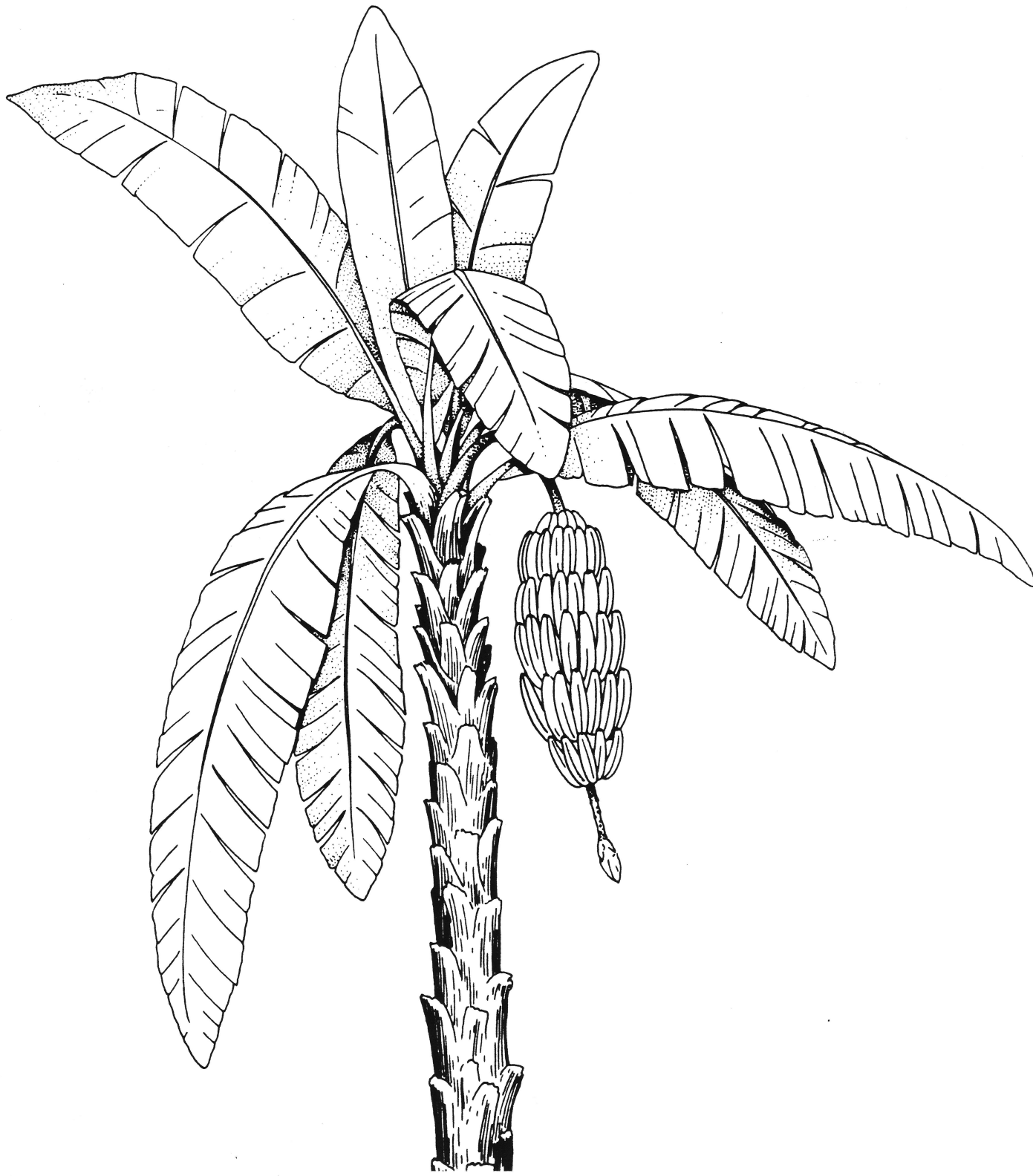
The Raja Puri is the one banana that Bill has called bullet proof, in that it is immune to Panama disease and is not attacked by nematodes or corm borers. It is a dwarf plant growing to 7 or 8' before fruiting, totally green with a very thick stem that stands up very well to the wind. The leaves are extremely wide and the plant produces fruit in about 7 months, producing more fruit than any banana that Bill knows. It is also more cold hardy than most bananas. The fruit are not very attractive, tapering from the stem to the tip and being rather angular, but they have a very sweet flavor. This banana is native to India. It is one of the most recommended by Bill.

The Mysore banana, like the Raja Puri, seems to be bothered by no diseases or pests. It is a vigorous growing plant to 16' and the root system is very strong. But the plant should be propped when carrying large heads of fruit since the stem could snap under the weight. The Mysore produces short fat small bananas that are sweet with just enough acidity to make the flavor interesting. Bill feels that the large banana growers will turn to the Mysore in the future to provide the consuming public some diversity in taste. It produces large heads of fruit, up to 50 lbs., and also fruit in very uniform size. It also has an unusually long shelf life in storage. The pseudostem of the Mysore is a dull red color and the leaves have a dark red midrib. Strangely enough, the Mysore banana is native to the Mysore section of India.

The Orinoco is a solid green banana that grows to about 16' and has produced a dwarf mutant that has been cultivated for about 20 years. The two plants are exactly the same in most respects except for the height and except that the dwarf makes larger heads than its tall progenitor. The dwarf Orinoco has been known to produce heads in excess of 90 lbs. on a 6' tall plant. The fruit is large, about 8 to 10" long, and of an angular form. It is quite thick, up to 2", and tapered at the tips and often ripens on the plant without splitting. The Orinoco is named for the Orinoco River in the jungles of South America. The Orinoco is a hearty banana and has adapted to the Florida climate and soils very well. It stands up to wind fairly well but must be supported when carrying large heads of fruit. It is susceptible to Panama disease and is attacked by nematodes and corm borers.

The Praying Hands is a most unusual banana, native to Indonesia, in that each hand of bananas is entirely fused together into one large mass. The individual bananas are separated by skin inside the fused mass so that the fingers may be pulled apart and eaten individually. The plant grows to 14' or so, totally green with no red color. The fruit can be quite heavy and the plant will need propping when fruiting. The Praying Hands is resistant to Panama disease but is attacked by nematodes and corm borers.

The Thousand Finger banana is a fine decorative plant for those who love to receive exclamations of wonder when people see the fruit. The flowers develop on the stem in reverse order to other bananas in that the hermaphroditic flowers precede the female flowers and there are no male flowers. After the hermaphroditic flowers, the flower stem begins to produce female flowers and continues to do so until the plant dies or the flower bud is broken off. It is possible for the fruit on the top of the head to be ripening while the flowers on the bottom of the head are still opening female flowers. 8 or 9' of very tiny bananas is quite possible. The flowering cycle frequently lasts up to 5 months. The plant grows to 12' and is solid green with no red coloring. It is seedless and sweet with a pleasant flavor but the bananas are only about an inch long when peeled. The thousand finger banana is immune to Panama disease but is attacked by nematodes and corm borers.



Raffle: January

Plant Name	Donor	Winner
Jambolan Java Plum (2)	Charles Novak	?
Flowering Maple	Paul Zmoda	Gregg Cardin
Broccoli	Lewis Maxwell	J. Murrie
Passion Fruit Vine	Heath	Charity Reece
Abakka Pineapple	Heath	? May
Pomegranate	Heath	?
Chives	Heath	Ed Styron
Tree Basil	Heath	A. Miller
Variegated Pineapple (3)	Bennett	Lamar & Crystal Galloway
Langsat	Bennett	Al Jean
Langsat	Bennett	Heath
Lychee	Bennett	N. McCormack
Mysore Raspberry	Bennett	Stark
Mysore Raspberry	Bennett	N. McCormack
Atemoya	Bennett	Charity Reece
Atemoya	Bennett	Lois Duffey
Pineapple	A. Burhenn	Lamar & Crystal Galloway
Aloe	A. Burhenn	Philmore
Yarrow	A. Burhenn	Evelyn Reda
Lemon Grass	A. Burhenn	Audrey Rossa
Barbados Cherry	Fred Sexton	Philmore
Papaya Tree	Fred Sexton	Evelyn Reda
Grumichama	Honeycutt	Bob Wente
Chayote. White	Honeycutt	L. McKone
Chayote. White	Honeycutt	? (please print)
Chayote. White	Honeycutt	Diana Mills
Chayote. White	Honeycutt	Evelyn Reda
Chayote. White	Honeycutt	Mary Ann Campbell
Kale	Monica Brandies	Al Hendry
Kale	Monica Brandies	A. Miller
Papaya. Hawaiian	L. McKone	Evelyn Reda
Tamarind	Jud Newcombe	Audrey Rossa
Meiwa Kumquat	Janet Conard	Audrey Rossa
Naranjilla	Janet Conard	Bob Wente
Naranjilla	Janet Conard	Evelyn Reda
Argula (2)	Monica Brandies	A. Miller
Luffa	Janet Conard	? (please print)
Luffa	Janet Conard	Mary Ann Campbell
Pink Pommelo	Janet Conard	Charles Novak
Papaya (2)	Philmore	Max Means
Camellias	Philmore	Max Means
Strawberry	John Greene	?

What's Happening January-February 1993

by Paul Zmoda

Sharpen your pruning shears and saws, for now is a great time to prune many fruiting trees and shrubs. Pruning benefits your plants by removing diseased and dead wood. It increases fruit size and numbers by eliminating unproductive branches that compete for energy and promotes tree health by allowing more sunlight and air to get to the centers of those trees. Lots of trees should be pruned when dormant, or nearly so, at this time of year. These include: mulberries, plums, apples, pears, nectarines, peaches, nut trees, and others. Citrus and other evergreens, such as loquats, may be pruned at any time, but cool weather is a good time, especially in late spring after the danger of frost is past. General pruning information follows.

Always cut branches off just next to the branch collar, the swollen ring of wood where a branch is attached. Do not leave "stubs" when you cut because the dead wood forming there will later weaken your tree. Remove all dead and sickly-looking branches back to their points of origin. Clip off small branches to a bud that will grow outward later when it sprouts. Eliminate crossing and/or touching branches by selecting the one that appears best and pruning off the other. Remove branches that grow straight up or hang down. This out crowded branches.

Always walk around and around your work, visualizing from every angle a well balanced specimen. If branches are too long here or there, head them back by shortening them to a branch or bud. Try to avoid removing more than one third of a tree at one session; if it doesn't look "right" this time, you will have to wait until next season.

Stone fruits, such as plums, peaches, etc., perform best when pruned into a vase-like shape called Open Center. A short trunk is allowed to have 3 to 5 equally spaced main scaffold branches with the central, upright leader removed. Pome fruits, such as apples, pears, etc., are allowed to grow in more upright forms known as Central Leader or Modified Leader. Central Leader trees have a strong straight central stem all the way to the top, with carefully selected side scaffold branches. A modified leader is the same except you cut off the central stem quite a ways up and don't let it grow back. This makes the tree easier to manage. When selecting branches to keep, bear in mind that branch angles are strongest (hold more weight, i.e., fruit) when closest to 90°. In other words, if you need to cut one of two competing branches, try to keep the branch having the widest angle of attachment.

Pruning is work, but it is enjoyable when you know how because you are preparing each tree to bear better, larger, and healthier fruit. There are excellent books to guide you, such as the Ortho gardening book All About Pruning, available in many gardening centers. Organic Gardening Magazine also has an informative article in the February 1993 issue.

New Members:

John Bell 1005-2W Hwy 92 W., Seffner, FL 33584 (813)689-1014

Tasting Table: January

I apologize to all who brought goodies for the tasting table last month, and there was a substantial variety of goodies, but the list appears to have vanished. Thank to all of you from everyone who enjoyed your efforts.

Recipe of the Month: Banana Wine

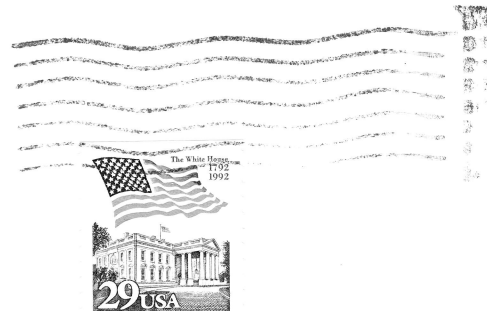
by Diana Mills & John VanDerHoek

30 really ripe bananas	2 tsps acid blend
juice of 5 oranges	1 tsp tannin
2 sliced lemons, including peel	5-6 gallons water
15 lbs sugar	1 pkg wine yeast
2 oz yeast nutrient	

Slice peeled bananas and add with orange juice and lemons into 1-3 gallons of water. Bring to a boil and simmer 30 minutes. Strain into primary fermentor (sterilized plastic garbage container). Add remaining ingredients, including water, except yeast. Stir well, and when cool, add yeast. Cover with plastic top, or bag, and tie down securely. Ferment until specific gravity is down to 1.30. Siphon into a carboy or gallon bottles with fermentation air locks. Rack in 2-3 weeks. It should go down to 0.990 specific gravity. Let settle until clear and then bottle. Timing depends in weather conditions, heat in house, availability of win maker, and unknown gift of Bacchus.



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