



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1993

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

14th Annual Tree Sale

WHEN: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15 from 3:00 p.m. til....
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16 from 8:00 a.m. til....
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17 from 9:00 a.m. til....
MONDAY, OCTOBER 18 from 9:00 a.m. til....

WHERE: FORT HOMER HESTERLY ARMORY AT 504 N. HOWARD AVE. ARMORY IS TWO (2) BLOCKS SOUTH OF CYPRESS AT CASS STREET. GOING EAST OR WEST ON I-275, EXIT AT ARMENIA AVENUE. DRIVE SOUTH ON ARMENIA TO GRAY STREET, EAST ON GRAY FOR ONE (1) BLOCK TO HOWARD, AND NORTH ONE (1) BLOCK TO ENTRANCE.

WHO: ALL MEMBERS, OF COURSE!

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What's Happening: September-October, 1993

by Paul Zmoda

You fruit growers have been waiting, a long time for some, to sample that first, special, perfectly ripened guava. The aroma is powerful, the color just beautiful. You carefully slice it open to find-**MAGGOTS!** How disappointing. How did this happen? How could you have prevented this invasion of fruit despoilers?

First of all, these maggots are the larval stage of the Caribbean Fruit Fly (*Anastrepha suspensa*). Second, they do not carry any diseases transmissible to humans. Third, they are "extra protein". Just kidding here, although you can eat them along with the guava without any harm. Simply pick them out and enjoy the fruits of your labor. This pest is related to the dreaded Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Medfly) and should be battled to minimize their damage. Understanding the flies' life cycle is important. The adult females select soft, ripe fruit in which to deposit eggs. Maggots develop promptly and burrow throughout the flesh, feeding and growing as they go until they are ready to pupate, or change. This period finds them leaving the fruit as a mature maggot and dropping into the soil where they harden into a brown capsule-like pupa. Inside the pupal case they redevelop into adult flies which then emerge to continue the cycle.

The most important method of control is to eliminate their food. Always keep all overripe and rotten fruit picked up. If not used, bury it deeply or place inside a hot compost pile. You may also plastic-bag it and "cook" it in the sun, or place in the trash. Another method is to soak infested fruits in buckets of soapy water for a day or two and then compost them. Try to pick your guavas before they turn color when the skin is firmer. They may then be ripened fully indoors. Always strive to destroy all the stages of the flies that you detect. Encourage natural predators such as lizards and toads. Trap adult flies: it is possible to hang sticky-traps among the branches. I use yellow rubber balls surrounded with sandwich wrap and then coated with Tanglefoot or Vaseline. A piece of wire speared through the ball serves as a hanger. Discard the plastic wrap when full and reset. Keep the area underneath the trees clear of debris and regularly cultivate the soil to expose pupae to predators. It is not a good idea to spray insecticides around ripening fruit for obvious health reasons.

The Caribfly is ubiquitous in our area, so don't give up the fight.

Raffle: September

Plant Name	Donor	Winner
Dwarf Jamaican Red Banana	Bob Baker	?
Brown Turkey Fig	Bob Baker	Al Jean
Brown Turkey Fig	Bob Baker	?
Dwarf Gran Nain	Bob Baker	Al Jean
Rose Apple	Armando Mendeza	Gene Wagenseller
Wampi	Heath	?
Tree Basil	Heath	Walter Vines
Yellow Pasion Fruit	Heath	Mary Ann Campbell
Spinach substitute	Heath	?
Pineapple	Honeycutt	Walter Vines
Fig	Honeycutt	?
Grumichama	Honeycutt	Scott Daniels
Papaya (2)	Burhenn	?
Loquat	Burhenn	?
Pineapple	E. Freedman	J. Murrie
Pineapple	E. Freedman	Frank Burhenn
Pineapple	E. Freedman	Janine Harndorff
Pineapple	E. Freedman	?
Bag of Limes	Stark	Heath
Bag of Limes	Stark	J. Murrie
Pumpkin	S. Daniels	Sue Wells
Pumpkin	S. Daniels	Al Jean
<i>Passiflora edulis</i>	S. Daniels	?
Loofa	MaryAnn Campbell	?
Pink Panda Strawberry	MaryAnn Campbell	Sue Wells
Papaya	MaryAnn Campbell	Janine Harndorf
Lychee	Mrs. Frank Wells	Jenna Vaccaro

New Members

Millie & Ed Kraujalis 1311 SE 14 Terrace, Cape Coral, FL 33990-3721 (813)458-1879

Thank You Thank You Thank You

To our favorite hosts, Janet Conard and Al Roberts, for providing such a lovely place for our annual pot-luck luncheon. Janet & Al have been our host for this event for a number of years now and have made it look so easy. However, we all know the amount of effort that goes into setting up one's home to receive 60 guests, and to provide real silverware and cloth napkins (with lovely handmade fruity napkin rings!) for everyone. The homemade fruit ice cream was delicious too. Thanks again, Janet & Al.

And thanks to everyone who came and provided such a bounty of delicious food. (Of course, we were all rewarded for our efforts by being able to eat what everyone else brought.)

Mangosteen Project Update

by Ed Kraujalis

In July, 1993, the day many of us were waiting for came, as over 2000 Mangosteen seeds from Singapore arrived and were distributed within one day. People as far away as Puerto Rico, California, and Hawaii received large, fresh seed at the peak heat time of the year. Germination feedback results show most people had 40% to 60% germination, very good by Mangosteen standards. I planted 600 seeds and over 400 germinated. I tried straight peat moss medium, in addition to some "Professional Growers Potting Soil" of an acid pH. Straight, thoroughly wet peat moss yielded the best germination, and to date the best growing results. Light shade should always be used, although some plants received late afternoon sun with no apparent ill effects. Plants should not be placed in full midday overhead sun until about six feet tall, and then gradually.

A problem encountered has been the wrinkling of some primary mangosteen leaves. While this concerned me highly, I am pleased to report that the second set of leaves appear to be normal. It looks like an aphid-like insect attacked the first set of leaves and then moved on, leaving future leaves alone.

All my mangosteens are clustered under a big mahogany tree in my backyard. {editor's note: the author lives in Cape Coral.} The mahogany's drooping spreading branches, along with a surinam cherry hedge, provide good shade and wind protection.

My dream was to distribute seeds and plants to as many people as possible in order to try to establish this very desirable fruit tree in Florida, and elsewhere. I even thought of putting in a mangosteen grove on Pine Island, but I have been unable to find an enthusiast who would risk some capital on a ten year project.

Having four hundred trees might qualify me for having the largest planting in Florida, or even the continental United States. I still can't believe I did it, after a five year search for a reliable seed source. The trees are here, finally, and I am going to do my absolute best to keep as many as my 80'X 125' lot will hold. If you have a mangosteen tree, please record all action you have taken that gave growing success. Write the newsletter editor with your comments. If you want to share my dream and own a mangosteen tree of your own, contact me. {editor's note: Ed has promised to have some at our Tree Sale Oct 16,17}

Lastly, someone asked me what my "ultimate aim" was in doing all this. I thought a second, and said: "To walk into your local Publix supermarket, and be able to buy fresh mangosteen fruit any day of the year." There is a lot of work to do before that, and I need your help. I will continue to give periodic updates.

RFCI NEEDS YOU TO SPREAD THE WORD - - -
 POST THE FLYERS!
 TELL YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS!
 LET'S MAKE THIS THE BIGGEST!

U S F BOTANICAL GARDEN PLANT FESTIVAL

The RFCI will be participating in the USF Autumn Festival for the first time this year. It is scheduled for one week after our tree sale on Saturday, October 23. This is an opportunity for our members to sell some of the plants that they may have left over from our tree sale the week before, and also any kind of other plants which you maybe cultivating, ornamental or non-fruiting. We will begin our set-up at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 22, and encourage all of our supplying members to try to be at the Botanical Gardens no later than 6:00 p.m., as there will be little time on Saturday morning, and much turmoil.

On Saturday morning, the gates will open for participants at 7:00 a.m. and close again at 8:30. It is important to get to the Gardens as soon as possible on Saturday morning because the tree sale for festival participants will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the tree sale for Botanical Garden members at 9:30 a.m. The sale opens to the public at 10:00 a.m. Two things are very important for all our club suppliers:

- 1) All plants should be listed on a manifest, priced and identified with name tags.
- 2) No participants will be admitted to the gardens on Friday, or Saturday before 10:00 a.m., unless they have identification of some kind. Badges may be obtained at our tree sale the week before and all participants are encouraged to wear their RFCI T-shirt.

For additional information, contact Bob Heath at the tree sale on October 16 & 17 late in the day, or call him at 289-1068 in the evenings or 879-6349 during the working day.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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