



# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2000

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

EDITORS: BOB HEATH, THERESA HEATH, CHARLES NOVAK, LINDA NOVAK, JIM LEE, SALLY LEE

PRESIDENT: BOB HEATH

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

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 14 & 15 @ USF (SEE PROGRAM BELOW)

PROGRAM: THE USF FALL PLANT FESTIVAL IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 14 & 15. CONSEQUENTLY, we will forego our normal monthly meeting, which would be on the 2nd Sunday of the month, Oct. 8, to prepare for the USF Plant Festival. All members are invited to participate and bring plants to donate or sell. Parking is free but admission is \$2.00, for which the Club will reimburse workers & participants in the Sale. This is an interesting affair and well worth the admission. Likewise, it is a social event as well as a money maker for the Club. There will be no tasting table or plant raffle this month. But we desperately need workers. Let's make this USF Sale our big one. Please join us!

## \* USF Fall Plant Festival \*

The RFCI will participate in the USF Plant Festival on Oct. 14 & 15, 2000. This is an important fund raiser and all members are invited to attend, to assist in the Sale, to select plants, to enjoy the camaraderie and to visit other groups.

Our participation will begin around 1:00 Friday afternoon, Oct. 13, raising tents, setting up tables, arranging plants and posters, til about 6:00 pm.

On Saturday, Oct. 14, the Gardens will be open from 7:00 am til 9:00 am for our final preparations. Price for admission is \$2.00, reimbursed by the Club.

The front gate will close at 8:30 am Saturday & Sunday, and participants will have to enter by the side south gate after the front gate closes, until 9:00.

From 7:00 am til 9:00 am on Saturday & Sunday, traffic will be one way, in the front gate & out the side gate. The Festival will end at 4:00 pm on Saturday & 3:00 pm on Sunday, and only after 4:15 & 3:15 pm respectively, will we be allowed to bring vehicles in to re-supply or remove plants.

Parking for participants not bringing plants or supplies is across the street from the front entrance to the Gardens.

The USF Botanical Gardens takes 10% of our gross sales; the remaining 90% will be split 70/20 between the participant & the RFCI, so mark your plants accordingly, remembering that you get 70% of the selling price, less taxes.

We have provided I.D. cards for RFCI workers. Only those with I.D. cards will be allowed in before the Sale begins. If you are refused admittance, someone from our group will vouch for you to gain admittance. If you need an I.D. card, call Bob Heath @ 813-289-1068 evenings.

## DIRECTIONS TO THE USF FALL PLANT FESTIVAL:

Enter the Gardens from Bruce B Downs one block north of Fowler, turn East on Pine Street & Left at Alumni Drive. Go one block to the Gardens entrance.

## SEPTEMBER PLANT RAFFLE

PLANT	DONOR	WINNER
Rose Apple	Heath	?
Papaya	"	?
Passion Fruit	"	?
Cactus (Nopales)	"	?
Surinam Cherry	"	?
Pineapple	"	Shane Smith
Eugenia Confusa	"	Sal Russo
Surinam Cherry	Russo	?
White Sapote Seedling	Janet Conard	Sal Russo
Annona	Phil Brown	?
White Sapote Seedling	Janet Conard	Shane Smith
Guava (2)	Pat McGauley	?
Soursop	Novak	Sue Owen
Soursop	"	Marv Hymes
Soursop (3)	"	?
Skyrocket Flower	"	Beth Rediccliffe
Skyrocket Flower	"	Marilyn Weekley
Skyrocket Flower	"	?
Carambola Fruit	Lee	Pat McGauley
Carambola Fruit	"	?
Bamboo Plant	"	Phil Brown
Bamboo Plant	"	Marilyn Weekley
Cassava Sticks	"	Pat McGauley
Cassava Sticks	"	Beth Reddiccliffe
Cassava Sticks (4)	"	?
Canna Indica	Stark	?
Pink Cracker Rose	"	Marilyn Weekley
Bare Root Papaya (8)	Weekley	?
6 Papaya	Mary Driver	?
Thornless Blackberry	Sharon Pilot	Susan Reed
Asparagus Fern	?	Bob Heath
Tabebuoa Pink	B. Reddiccliffe	?
Mango Afufo	P. Branesky	Susan McAveety
Tabebuoa Pink	Sharon Pilot	?
Solanum Diaphelum	B. Reddiccliffe	?

# PESTICIDES

by Dave Palmer

Dave is involved in commercial horticultural services and pesticide training and testing. Pesticide safety and labels is a big part of what he does. When he agreed to talk to us, he decided that one of the main safety issues is the label itself. Dave showed us the label for Roundup. The label is a small booklet of 128 pages and this is why he says that labels are not customer friendly. The little booklet is actually what they call the label with information much more extensive than can be glued to the container. He also had an Atrazine label. It is also a little booklet but the print is so small it's difficult to read without a magnifying glass. Likewise, it's not customer friendly, but there is a lot of good information on the labels and very important to the user. In addition, the information on the label is a federal law. He projected a portion of a label on the screen and what was showing was "exceptions", which means exceptions to the law. There are actually some things that can be done that are exceptions to the law.

The main point is that pesticide users are required to follow all the directions and instructions on the label, which is pretty tough, after all, when you think about 128 pages.

Pesticide labeling - what is it? It includes the label itself and any other accompanying materials. Pesticide development takes a long time. Big companies spend millions of dollars, up to 50 million, and it takes 8 to 10 years to develop a pesticide from the concept to putting the product on the shelf. So the manufacturers know more about the labels than anyone else and that knowledge is what they use to develop the label. The label is the only way they can communicate this information to the user.

The list of things includes ingredients and formulation: Is it a granule? Is it a dust? Is it a liquid? Is it a powder? What is it? And directions for use.

Directions for use is probably the only thing on the label that might get read by the majority of users and sometimes people don't even read them.

What else is on the label? Personal safety information, hazard information: Is this chemical flammable? Environmental cautions: How close can you use this product to a body of water? Also there are storage and disposal requirements. Sometimes you are not allowed to just throw the container away. Often times, however, like with the stuff one gets at Home Depot, we are allowed to throw the container away, but sometimes one has to take special care.

The manufacturer's name & address must by law be on the label so in case something happens, like the Benolate thing a few years ago, we need to be able to track down which manufacturing plant or which producer actually produced it, so they can go back in the records and if something went wrong, they could see exactly what it was.

What else is on the label? Use - if you're doing any of these things, you are using the product: application, storage, transportation, the equipment you use, care & operation of the equipment you use and disposal of the chemical or container. All of those things are part of the use of the product.

Also the list of ingredients must be on the label and the percentage of the total of each ingredient listed as active and inert ingredients. The inert ingredients are part of the pesticide but it is not required that they tell what the inert ingredients are. They may be a great variety of different products other than the active ingredients. They are used to make things safer; they put products in the chemical so they don't burn plants; they put anti-clumping compounds in dry products; and spreaders and stickers in liquids.

Something else on the label is the identifying information. How much is in the package, what type of pesticide is it, is it meant for snails, algae, ants. You'd be surprised how often people try to use a product for something it was never intended for.

What else is on the label? "The type of

formulation". Is it a powder, concentrate, granulated, dust, micro-encapsulated? There is a list of formulations about 2 pages long of all types. One needs to know what kind of formulation one is using in order to use it properly.

What else is on the label? "Signal words" - and this is a biggie: Caution, Hazard, Danger: the 3 signal words that tell you how toxic it is. There are 4 ways that people can be exposed to dangerous chemicals and each way is called the route of entry. You can breathe them in as dust or fine droplets, that's respiratory. You can get them on your skin, that's topical. You can get them into your eyes, that's optical. The fourth one is ingestion, that's if it is swallowed. You can only find this out by reading the label.

Now what do the signal words mean? Caution means it is hazardous by one means of entry or possible two. Danger means a taste, like you dip your finger into it and taste it. Hazard means a teaspoon to a tablespoon, and caution means a tablespoon to an ounce, all of which means you have to be very careful because it doesn't take much to knock a person right out. The signal words are usually in large letters and right on the front of the label.

Dave emphasized that it's important that we read the label. Unfortunately, many people are using these products who have not read the label. If something happens, they don't know what to do. It is important, the first time you use a product, to read the label, and if you don't use it often, you should brush up on it once in a while. That's why Dave says he is here, "to raise our awareness of what's on the label".

In addition to the 3 signal words, there is a 4th level above that. There is no separate signal word for it. It's "danger, the skull & crossbones" and the word "poison". What it means is that the

pesticide is highly hazardous by at least 2 routes of entry.

The next thing on the label is the statement of practical treatment. It is on all labels. It tells you what to expect if something happens and there is usually some type of instruction to the physician. Dave showed us an example of the information on the label indicating what to do if the pesticide is swallowed. There's enough information so the physician will know what to do to take it from there. It tells what to do immediately and then at the doctor's office. One thing a physician does immediately is to call the poison control center to complement the information on the label.

Dave gave us an additional bunch of statements that are on labels: the acute effect statement, delayed effects, personal protective equipment, environmental hazards, physical and chemical hazards, is it explosive, is it flammable, protective clothing, aspirators, gloves, etc.

What else is on the label? And this is the part that people sometimes read, "directions for use".

The application rate is also on the label. This is the maximum lethal rate for maximum pest control. Frequently a lesser concentration will work just as well or even better. It is surprising how many people think the rate of use is the starting point and higher concentrations will do a better job. This is not borne out by scientific studies.

Also on the label are storage and disposal requirements. This tells how to store it and where and under what conditions, and how to dispose of the empty container or the pesticide itself legally. Terrible things have happened when people have stored chemicals in other containers and never labeled them. In closing, Dave emphasized again that we should read the label, not just for entertainment but as instructions on how to use the material safely and effectively for yourself, for those in contact with you and for the environment.





# WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sep-Oct 2000

by PAUL ZMODA

We survived Hurricane Gordon with little damage. 3.1 inches of rain fell during the storm and made the soil pretty soggy for a few days. To prevent damage to our potted tree collection, all plants were laid over on their sides with the root ends facing the prevailing winds. This kept the wind from knocking off fruit and snapping branches. It is also a tactic to prevent wind from rocking the trees back and forth, which loosens the root systems. As an additional measure, it prevents overwatering from the rain.

Our fall vegetable garden is now fully planted. Too much rain at seeding time can mean drowning, rotting and burying of tiny plants so I may replant some seeds several times.

As of Sept. 19, we are very excited to continue to observe daily the progress of our latest success: a soursop fruit! Yes, it's true. Hanging on since May is the spiny, green monster we've been working for. As of the above date, this fruit of Annona muricata is about 8" long - actually as large as my head! It must have a drink of water every day or it becomes soft. I have it carefully supported with a sling made from pantyhose. This is to keep the comparatively small branch it sprang from, from failure and also to hold it in case it should suddenly ripen and try to fall off. Time from seed-sprouting to now has been 9 years.

Half of our fig specimens are producing fruit now, the persimmons are looking great and some grapes are ripening their second crops.

New plantings: tea and dogwood.

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

The fall USF Plant Festival is set for Oct. 14 & 15. We need a lot of help from devoted members both Saturday & Sunday. This is a great social affair, lots of camaraderie and crowds of plant purchasers (see page 00-65 for details).

Also, in January we will be participating in the Citrus Celebration. This is a joint effort with USF & RFCI. This year it should be bigger than ever and will require even more participation. Those of us who enjoyed the Citrus Celebration last year will remember the party we had at George Riegler's, with grilled hamburgers, potato salad, cole slaw, etc., picking fruit, washing & drying same & packing the fruit in boxes for the trip to USF.

Paul Zmoda gives us a rundown of what he's doing in his gardens each month, which he's been doing for over 10 years. We want to ask other members to let us see what they're doing in their gardens by way of the newsletter. Please consider writing a short synopsis of your efforts and successes. Mail your writing, typed or freehand (please be legible) to Bob Heath, 4109 DeLeon St, Tampa FL 33609. I can assure you we will find room for it in the newsletter and the membership will be interested.

Following is a list of scheduled programs in advance for the next few months:

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Oct. 14 & 15 | USF Fall Plant Sale                                     |
| Nov. 12      | Sidney Park Brown on Fertilizers                        |
| Dec. 10      | Christmas Party & Covered Dish Lunch at Dr. Burns' Home |
| Jan. 20 & 21 | Citrus Celebration                                      |

## Tasting Table: September 2000

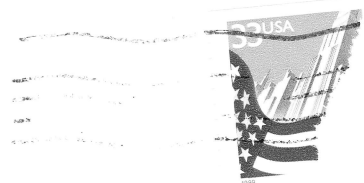
Lee: Carambola, Stir Fry with Bamboo Shoots, Guava Sauce Cake, Carambola Cake	
Novak: Blueberry Pound Cake, Fresh Fruit Kabobs, Key Lime Cake, Juice	
Janet Conard: Bump Oatmeal Cookies	Al Roberts: Pear Cobbler
Beth Reddicliffe: Chocolate Cupcakes	Pat McGauley: Tamarind
Steven Branesky: Muscadine Grapes	Paul Branesky: Salsa
Myren Branesky: Banana Bread	Pat Jean: Crackers
Lillian Smoleny: Carambola Nut Bread	Thom Scott: Spanish Limes (Gineps)
Jan Elliot: Mango Sugar Cookies	Sharon Pilot: Coconut Macaroons
Nancy McCormack: Starfruit	Rose Terenzi: Lemon Poundcake
Bob Heath: Spiced Carambolas	

**\*\*We have many delicious contributions to the tasting table. Members often ask for the recipes for their favorites. If members provide a copy of the recipe used to prepare their donation, we will make copies and have them available at the next meeting.**

## New Website

Visit our new Website at [rarefruit.org](http://rarefruit.org). We are in the process of adding more information to the site. In the meantime, if you have any suggestions or comments, please forward them to Charles Novak at [c.novak@worldnet.att.net](mailto:c.novak@worldnet.att.net).

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