



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2001

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

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

PRESIDENT: JIM LEE WEBSITE: www.rarefruit.org

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

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 9

MEETING PLACE: UNIVERSITY OF S. FLORIDA, Bldg BSF100

THIS MONTH 1:00 PM



PROGRAM: THE PROGRAM THIS MONTH IS OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY & COVERED DISH SOCIAL AT CLUB MEMBERS' DR. & MRS. BURNS & CATHY CREIGHTON'S FARM ON MIZELLE CREEK IN LYTHIA. This is a covered dish social & everyone is invited to bring something good to eat. We will meet at the Creighton farm on Mizelle Creek at 1:00 pm (SEE MAP ON PAGE 01-87). We will have the usual plant raffle so bring plants to donate. There will be no formal speaker & only a little club business will be conducted. We will have a door price & wine tasting so all you little ol' wine makers bring your best. This is our 7th annual Christmas Party & a great social event so all try to come and help us celebrate.

From the President
Jimmy Lee

As the year draws to a close once again I want to bring to mind that we are members of a very unique club – a service and education organization. We have fulfilled the purposes of our club by teaching people how to select their plants, how to protect their plants from diseases and freezing temperatures, and how to propagate new plants. We have also distributed many unusual fruiting plants to our members through the club's plant exchange or directly from other members.

The growing of tropical fruiting plants in our subtropical climate is a challenge. Therefore we find it necessary to make every effort to keep our plants healthy and fruit producing. We are fortunate that with our climate conditions we can grow both cold hardy fruiting plants (blueberries, apples, peaches, persimmons, etc.) and cold sensitive plants (bananas, annonas, lychees, carambolas, etc.).

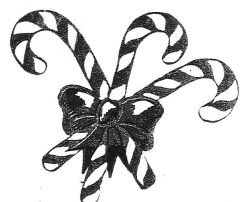
Once again I want to thank all the members for their generosity in donating items to the plant exchange and the tasting table. We have received many compliments from members and visitors about the wonderful variety of delectable edibles available for sampling. We also thank our members for their dedication to the club and for giving their time to help with sales and other events.

Instead of having our Citrus Celebration in January we have scheduled a regular meeting with a speaker. We have been invited to have our Citrus Celebration at the State Fair on Feb. 10 in the Family Living Building (same building as the horticulture exhibits). Please remember to donate your extra citrus fruit as we expect a large crowd. We will have signup sheets at the Holiday Social for those who plan to help with the Citrus Celebration and to man the club's exhibit.

Let us once again unite as one family at our Holiday Social. Donations for the free raffle will be greatly appreciated. We hope to see all our members there and we wish all of you a very happy and festive holiday season.

Scheduled Programs:

December 9: Holiday Social at the Creighton Farm. See map in this newsletter.
January 13: Persimmons by Jim Mercer
February 10: Citrus Celebration at the State Fair



SAPODILLA

by GENE JOYNER

The Sapodilla "Manilkara zapotilla" is a large evergreen tropical tree native to Central America and Mexico. Although it is slow growing with a dense spreading canopy it is preferred as a large shade tree in many areas because of its high resistance to breakage and uprooting by strong winds. It has a very high degree of salt tolerance and is often used for seaside plantings.

Trees are adapted for a wide range of growing conditions and soil types. However, young trees will be injured by temperatures near 30°F and large ones will be injured by temperatures of 26° or lower. Trees are quite drought tolerant once well established and can also withstand short periods of flooding with no ill effects. Young trees should be fertilized about every other month with a citrus or fruit tree type fertilizer and after the first year, trees only need fertilizing 2 to 3 times a year.

Landscape nurseries offer Sapodillas for sale in south Florida. However, many of these are propagated from seed and may be inferior in fruit quality and productivity. When selecting for fruit characteristics it is more desirable to either graft or air layer trees. Small inconspicuous 3/8" flowers are borne throughout the year and the large 2 to 4", round, egg shaped, brown skinned fruit matures primarily during the warm months although some fruit can also mature during the winter. The flesh is light yellowish brown with a smooth to granular texture and a sweet pleasant flavor. There may be no seeds or as many as 8 to 10 hard shiny, black, flat 3/4" seeds. When fruit reaches maximum size on the tree, they are normally picked and allowed to ripen off the tree. If you allow them to ripen on the tree and fall, much of the fruit may be destroyed hitting the ground.

Fruit can be used in a variety of ways as fresh fruit, however because of the latex in the fruit, it is not good for any type of use that would require cooking. There are a number of varieties of Sapodillas available. Varieties include the Prolific, Brown Sugar, Modello, Russell, Martin and several others. There are also a number of seedling trees around south Florida that are not named that produce good quality fruit and of course, trees that are good quality can be propagated by grafting if you wish a particular variety that you can't find at nurseries.

Sapodillas have very few pest problems, however, mature fruit is attacked by the Caribbean fruit fly and it's important that the fruit be picked and not allowed to get over mature on the tree, or the fruit may be bagged to prevent fruit fly damage.

Bob's Grapefruit Salad

This recipe doesn't sound very appealing but we have found it very good as a side dish at our dinner meal or as a snack.

1 cup Wesson Oil
1 tsp salt
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
1/3 cup chili sauce
1/4 cup vinegar
1/2 onion (minced)

Beat together thoroughly and serve over fresh grapefruit or pummelo sections.



The Market Stand: PINEAPPLE

Family: Bromeliaceae Genus: *Ananas comosus*

The earliest European record of the pineapple was by Peter Martyr who stated that Christopher Columbus saw it being cultivated on Guadeloupe Island in 1493. The Spaniards named it *la piña* due to its resemblance to the pine cone. It was one of the first New World plants to reach the Old World. This was possible because an up-rooted plant can survive for months without soil. In Florida native members of this family, the Bromeliads, are called air plants for their seeming ability to survive on air alone. The leaves of many species of this group have a thick cuticle that retards dessication. These leaves also possess specialized tissues for storing water. This suitability to xeroscopic conditions allows their cultivation in semi-arid lands such as Hawaii.

Hawaii once led the world in production of canned pineapple but labor costs have now shifted much of that production to the Third World.

In our markets the pineapple is the most ubiquitous of canned tropical fruits. It is available in a wide variety of forms: juiced, crushed, sliced, and cut in many sizes. The quality of the canned fruit rivals that of fresh fruit because they are packed ripe for canning and unripe for fresh eating. Ripe fruit does not ship well.

The fruit contains practically no starch. Its sugar content is derived from starch in the stem that is transferred to the fruit, most of which takes place just prior to complete ripeness when the fruit may nearly double its sugar concentration. Hence, an unripe pineapple can ripen further only to a limited extent owing to the small amount of the stem that remains at the core of the fruit.

Many people have described a fully ripe pineapple as the most delicious of all fruits; certainly it is among them. The best one I ever ate I grew myself. Part of that wonderful experience was the enjoyment of the exquisite, rich aroma of the ripe fruit, it perfumed my entire house. In all honesty, though, I have grown some that were less memorable, and very acid.

I like to grow pineapples for several reasons. They are attractive, especially when in bloom or when holding fruit which they can do for 3-6 months. Their size lends itself to container culture affording easy protection from cold (damaged at 32°F, killed at 28°F) and nematodes. They grow and produce fruit in semi shade, something I have an abundance of. They are relatively free of pests & diseases. And finally they are easy to propagate.

Many people know that a pineapple plant can be started from the fruit crown. Additionally, their vegetative propagation may be accomplished from a variety of plant parts: off-shoots that arise from different areas along the stem usually after fruiting - called slips if near the fruit, and shoots, suckers or ratoons if further down the stem; or stem pieces during any stage of their life cycle. Sexual reproduction is possible but seeds are rare and difficult to germinate. Hummingbirds are thought to be their primary pollinator. Hand pollination is practiced for cross breeding. Flower/fruit production time varies with starting material and cultural methods; a general range is 15-32 months. In Florida it could happen in any season. Gassing can be employed when plants are at least 15 months old to stimulate flowering - it is a process whereby ethylene forming chemicals are applied. Plant hormones may also be used. A field grown plant will self-propagate for many years eventually forming a clump of cloned progeny, although mutations can occur. In practice, however field culture requires the thinning of all off-shoots save one basal shoot (a shoot arising from the stem or stolon beneath the soil) which is allowed to remain to produce the next crop; this process is repeated for 3+ years until fruit quality declines. The plant is then removed and the ground reworked with soil amendments and fumigants before being replanted.



Pineapple plants like well drained soil, organic matter and a pH of 4.5 - 6.5. Adequate fertilization is necessary for good fruit size and quality; added magnesium appears to help. Avoid contaminating the growing bud with fertilizer or sand as this will likely damage or kill the plant. Organic matter such as coffee grinds or cottonseed meal can be placed in the bud to prevent this. Irrigation should not exceed 1" semi monthly. Pineapples can make the most of a light rain shower or morning dew due to their physical form, a rosette of stiff, trough shaped leaves that direct water toward the center of the plant and its roots. Mealy bugs, spider mites, nematodes and various diseases are their enemies but most can be easily controlled.

Pineapples are a fair source of Vitamin C. The fruit and stem contains the proteolytic enzyme bromelain that has many commercial uses (e.g., meat tenderizer). For that reason raw pineapple should never be added to gelatin, a protein, as it will prevent it from setting properly. This is true for papayas and several other fruits.

The pineapple has many culinary uses: in baked goods, salads, sauces, preserves, candied and in main dishes. Unripe pineapples are unpalatable and poisonous. The pineapple with crown intact is very ornamental and often used to adorn gift baskets and table settings. Its image is artistically portrayed on homes, buildings, furniture and other household articles - a practice derived from early times in Caribbean cultures where it signified friendship and hospitality. Why not discover the pleasure of growing pineapples in your yard?

- Thom Scott

Tasting Table: November 2001

J. Murrie: Macadamia Nut-Choc. Chip Cookies

Thom Scott: Green Bean & Tomato Salad

Peg Mann: Pummelo & Carambola Pie

Rose Terenzi: Key Lime Pies, Cinnamon Coffeecake

Paula Hughes: Fruit Bread with Lime

Beth Reddicliffe: Chocolate Cake

Mayra & Shane Smith: Chocolate Cake

Lee: Fried Wontons, Almond poppy seed cake, Persimmon fruit cake, Pina Colada cake, Roselle juice, Lemonade

Novak: Tropical Pawpaw Cookies, Banana coconut nut bread, Pumpkin nut bread, Lemon-blueberry nut bread, Pecan sticks, pummelo, Fruit juices

Cora Cornel: Biblingka

Musgrave: Apple Pie

Pat Jean: Cookies

Marie Palis: Banana Pie

Bev Burch: Lemon Cake

V. Reddicliffe: Big Cookie

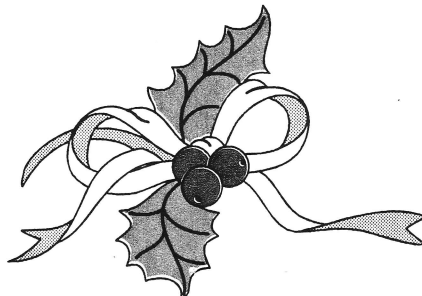
Cimafranca: Blueberry Silk Pie

And other tasty items not listed on the signup sheet. We invite members to contribute to the tasting table. **Thanks a million!**

Meeting Location to change: Our meeting location on the USF campus will change beginning with the January 2002 meeting. The new location is a little north of the Botanical Garden, across from Moffitt Cancer Center. This location should better serve our needs. More information and directions will be in the January newsletter.

Members' Corner:

Wanted: Wire Tomato cages. Charles Novak (813)754-1399



Cold Protection for Plants

By Charles Novak

Floridians have a saying, if you don't like the weather here in paradise, wait 15 minutes and it will change. And the weather is indeed changing. Temperatures close to freezing along with scattered frost are near, with the lowest temperatures occurring near dawn. What does this mean for our landscapes? It means it's time to put into action our winter protection plans.

Christmas lights

Trees can be protected by wrapping Christmas lights around the tree limbs and branches. The closer the lights are wrapped around the limbs and branches the better. **Note:** the small twinkle Christmas lights should not be used as they give off very little heat.

Home Blanket

Use a blanket for protecting small to large plants during short freezes. Coverings placed over plants help to hold in radiant heat released from the soil and from the plants themselves. These coverings can be cloth sheets, blankets, several sheets of newspaper, paper grocery sacks, cardboard boxes or plastic. The thicker the plastic the better it will resist tearing in the wind. **Do not drape plastic directly on the plants because it conducts cold through to the leaves instead of insulating the leaves.** For overnight protection only most anything that traps the heat will do - just remember to remove it in the morning, especially plastic coverings. If several nights of freezing temperatures are expected and you want to leave the cover in place, you will need to be a little more choosy about the material used so the plants won't be damaged by the heat of the day. **Cover plants all the way to the ground.** On very cold nights, a safe heat source can be placed under the covering. For smaller areas, a low wattage incandescent light bulb (40 to 60 watts) can be used.

Specially Made Frost Blankets

Purchase blankets designed for cold protection. One example is available in the Tampa Bay area (AgroFabric). AgroFabric comes in degrees of freeze protection from 4°F to 8°F+. I would suggest the PRO70 blanket-providing 8°F+ of freeze protection. AgroFabric is available in many sizes and can be ordered from **Prosource One, 4094 Paul Buchman Hwy, Plant City (813) 754-3882.**

Sprinkle with water

Plants can be protected during a freeze by sprinkling the plants with water. Sprinkling for cold protection helps keep leaf surface temperatures near 32°F (0°C) because sprinkling utilizes latent heat released when water changes from a liquid to a solid state. Sprinkling must begin as freezing temperatures are reached and continue until thawing is completed. Water must be evenly distributed and supplied in ample quantity to maintain a film of liquid water on the foliage surfaces. It is important to remember that ice build up may damage plants.

Sprinklers should be spaced so that, without a breeze, the water from each sprinkler reaches all adjacent sprinklers. If wider spacing is used, protection may not be adequate under windy or very cold conditions. If the wind speed is high (10 to 15 mph or greater), water application even with close sprinkler spacing may be spotty and erratic. Sprinkling with water during freezing temperatures acts as insulation, but if the sprinklers stop while it's still freezing your plants may not survive. **NOTE:** Watering during a freeze can be very damaging to the growth center of several palms - Phoenix, Brahea, Trithrinax and many other genera that prefer to have their heads in dry air during a freeze. If water enters the growth center, ice crystals forming around the growth bud may cause extensive damage and can result in the death of the palm. So, cover the spear with aluminum foil or a plastic to keep it dry or direct your sprinkler away from such a palm's crown.

Soil Banks and Tree Wraps

Trees can be partially protected by soil banks or tree wraps. Soil banks and tree wraps are used to protect only the tree trunks and are very effective. This provides a basis for growing a new top following removal of the existing freeze-killed top. However, soil banks require backbreaking labor to create and can be difficult to remove after 2 to 3 years because of the tree canopy and roots.

A wide variety of wrap materials is available; including bubble wrap, polyurethane, fiberglass, polyethylene and other synthetics. Most offer only a few degrees of protection. Improved wraps which incorporate a reservoir of heat-retaining liquid provide freeze protection comparable to that achieved with soil banks.

Heaters

Heat provided by orchard heaters can be quite effective in cold protection under most circumstances. However, increased costs of heaters, labor and fuel have made such supplemental heating uneconomical. In addition, you will need to stay up during a freezing night to keep a close watch on the operation of the heaters. This definitely is effective but limited to your tolerance for sleep deprivation.

Mini-greenhouse

A cardboard box, garbage can or a bucket work well as a mini-greenhouse for small plants. Wooden mini-greenhouses are the most elaborate and time-consuming, but offer the best and complete protection for the plant. Usually a frame is constructed around the plant and covered with a transparent plastic. Artificial heat is added, such as heating wires/pads, electrical or gas stoves or light bulbs. Be aware that any part of a leaf touching the plastic will get exposed to the outside temperatures and will most likely turn brown. If the winter sun starts to 'bake' too much add a door or window which can be shut during the night.

Note: Unheated mini-greenhouses are not effective on very cold and windy nights.

Shading

Tree canopy covers can reduce cold injury caused by freezing temperatures. Plants in shaded locations usually go dormant earlier in the fall and remain dormant until later in the spring. Tree canopies elevate the minimum night temperatures under them by reducing radiant heat loss from the ground to the atmosphere. Shading from early morning sun may decrease bark splitting of some woody plants. Plants that thrive in light shade usually display less winter dehydration than plants in full sun. But plants requiring sunlight that are grown in shade will be unhealthy, sparsely foliated, and less tolerant of cold temperatures.

Umbrellas

Large patio shades can prevent a good deal of frost damage to plants if a cold clear night is expected. Close the umbrella during the day and open it at night to keep what little heat the ground has absorbed that day from radiating away.

Mulching

Don't underestimate the effectiveness of a good layer of mulch - about 3 to 6" thick. Most fine and tender feeder roots are close to the surface. In general, these roots are the most cold-tender part of the plant and will suffer the most damage if left unprotected. Mulch will help the soil retain some warmth for a short period. In addition, mulch will improve the looks of your landscape and add to the overall health of your plants. **Note:** Some plants, such as citrus trees, should not be heavily mulched near the trunk as foot rot may occur.

Grow Plants in Pots

Plants in pots are easily moved to warm locations during the winter or on cold nights. Placing plants under patio roofs or building overhangs can also provide protection. Warmth radiating up from the ground is trapped by overhead structures. Even placing plants under the canopy of a dense tree or shrub can offer some protection. Large potted plants can be laid down on the ground so the warmth radiating up from the ground will offer some protection from freezing temperatures.

Leaves Cage

For relatively small plants a fence cage is placed around the plant and filled with leaves, newspapers or other insulating material. In addition, manure can be used to temporarily increase the temperature.

Site Selection

The best method of frost/freeze protection is good site selection. Monitoring locations on your property for one winter may be effective in selecting the best sites for planting. Observing the flow of cold air and its possible buildup in low spots or behind cold air dams; such as fences, hedges and wooded areas, is the most effective, quick method of site selection. South facing walls provide a degree of protection. The warmth of the sun is stored in the masonry wall during the day, and released at night. This can provide several additional degrees of warmth overnight.

Foliage Spray AntiStress

Spray plants with a foliage spray consisting of carbon chain polymers with an acrylic base. This spray is used to reduce the ravaging effects of weather related stress or the plant's exposure to hostile environmental growing conditions, such as: frost and freeze (4 to 6 degrees F of added protection from the freezing level of each plant species), excessive heat, drought conditions, drying winds (hot or cold.) and rapid temperature changes. It also reduces transplant shock and increases survival rates. For more information email info@AntiStress.com, call 281-481-1671 or view website <http://www.antistress.com>.

And Last

If everything else fails – MOVE SOUTH.

After a Freeze

Do not wash frost off plants the morning after a freeze. This action raises the temperature too quickly and usually damages cell tissue. After a freeze don't assume your plants are dead. Wait to see if they put out new growth. The plant's water needs should be checked after a freeze. The foliage could be transpiring (losing water vapor) on a sunny day after a freeze. Soils or mediums with high soluble salts should not be allowed to dry because salts would be concentrated into a small volume of water and can burn plant roots. Plants may benefit from liquid food with a full compliment of minor elements. A 3-12-6 fertilizer is the best for regenerating and 7-9-5 fertilizer is best for growth.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Nov-Dec 2001

by PAUL ZMODA

One landscape feature that I enjoy and employ is the HEDGE. A hedge is simply a row of plants. They represent living walls which can block wind, sound, dust and light. Hedges can delineate property lines and form borders providing privacy, protection and peace of mind. They may be fashioned with certain species to form barriers from intrusion by animals as well as humans.

Many plants serve well as hedges. They may be left to grow free and loose or dense and strong depending on their care. You can severely shear some trees so as to force branching which can provide an impenetrable blockade of vegetation. Spine-bearing plants add painful defense in addition to maximum branching: I've seen hedges made by closely planted date palms. After several years it became a massive and forbidding barrier of fronds and long, sharp needles. I understand the U.S. military uses Poncirus trifoliata to protect certain installations; once established, these hedges can ward off penetration by man or jeep. These are strong hedges indeed!

I like uniform hedges - all evenly colored and equally vigorous. I've made one hedge from about 70 Calliandra (or powder puff) shrubs. It stretches over 180 feet. To ensure its homegeneous properties, I've constructed it by propagating each unit from a single shrub over many years' time. The entire structure is now genetically identical in appearance and behavior.

We also have hibiscus hedges, azalea hedges, day lily hedges and our pride and joy, a hedge of TEA, Camellia sinensis, the shrub which provides the beverage of commerce. It is slowly becoming a standout structure in our landscape. The tea shrub is cold hardy and at this time of year it is laden with blossoms. Our tea hedge serves several purposes. First, it is very attractive with its shiny, dark leaves and numerous white and yellow flowers. Second, it helps shield our home from traffic noise. Third, it is the source of green and black tea to drink. We prepared green tea this fall by first plucking the leaves from vigorous branch tips. After allowing these leaves to wilt in the sun for a while, we kneaded and twisted them for 20 to 30 minutes. At this point we dried them in the oven on a baking sheet until crispy. To make a cup of tea, you put a spoonful into boiling water for several minutes. It is very nice with Oriental food or in the A.M. to wake up.

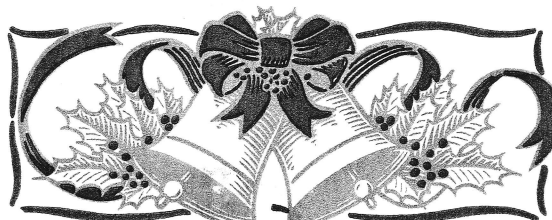
New plantings: Swiss chard, peas, Chinese cabbage, more lettuces, blueberry, four o'clocks.

We still have some Grafting Knives available to members who are interested in grafting their own plants. Contact Charles Novak (813)754-1399 or c.novak@worldnet.att.net

We still have MYCORRHIZAE available in quart jars to provide a symbiotic relationship with plant roots. See "Mycorrhizae - the Latest Horticultural Breakthrough" in the September newsletter.

New Members: Steve Brosh Tampa, FL Fahd Khalifeh Beirut, Lebanon
Robert & Francee Jimenez Deerfield Beach, FL

A warm WELCOME, and we hope to see you at the next meeting.



NOVEMBER PLANT EXCHANGE

PLANT	DONOR	WINNER
Epid. Orchid	Ed Musgrave	Shane Smith
"	"	T. Scott
"	"	?
"	"	Neil Leonard/Ron Altic
"	"	Silvia Nehmad
Aloe	Bob Heath	?
Papaya	"	?
Pineapple	"	Deborah Byrd
Orange Berry	"	Rochan Premraj
Morina	"	?
Passion Fruit - Yellow	"	Karin Yobloske
Naranjilla	"	?
Sea Grape	"	?
Chaya Spinach	"	T. Scott
Surinam Cherry	Sal Russo	Al Jean
La Lot Veg.	E. Musgrave	Nancy McCormack
"	"	?
Dewberry (2)	Zmoda	?
Lady Finger Banana	Lee	?
Candle Bush (2)	"	Robert Bodycott
Papaya	"	Ellen & John Irwin
Avocado	"	Walter Yobloske
Taro Root	"	Susan McAveety
Orchid Tree	"	?
Duncan Grapefruit Seedling	"	?
Surinam Cherry	Novak	?
Mango Seedling true to par.	"	Orion Vinson
" " "	"	Neil Leonard
Calabash Tree (2)	"	?
Mango Seedling (3)	Thom Scott	?
Papaya	Bill Advian	?
Apple Banana	"	?
Morning Glory Bush	"	?
Rainbow Pepper	Shane & Mayra Smith	?
Cachucha Pepper	"	Stark
Pak Choy	"	?
Turnip Greens	"	?
Spinach	"	?
Banana Tree	Lisa Palis	Shane Smith
Thornless Blackberry (2)	Sharon Pilot	Jocarol Smith
Nam Wah Banana	"	J. Murrie
" " " (2)	"	?
4 Aloe Vera Plants	Esme Moore	?
Surinam Cherry	Neil Leonard	Rochan Premraj
Carambola Seedling	"	?
Red Plumeria	Judy Cimafranca	Shane Smith
" " (3)	"	?
Banana Orinoco	?	J. Cimafranca
" "	?	Betty Bruder
Apple Banana	?	Irene Hurst
Guava	Deborah Byrd	Robert Bodycott
Papaya	Weekley	?



A GUIDE TO TROPICAL FRUIT TREES & VINES (continued)

54. *Diospyros ebenaster* - Chocolate pudding fruit, Black sapote

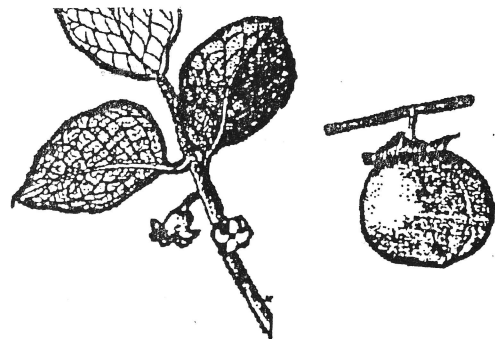


Large tree with black wood with brown stripes and native to India. Leathery leaves to 4 inches long. Male flowers in clusters and female flowers singly. Greenish-black fruit is about 3 to 4 inches in diameter and bitter brown to black pulp. Fruit is eaten fresh, made into jelly or pudding. Plants started from seed and grafting.

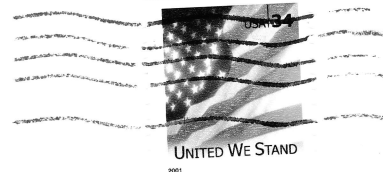
55. *Diospyros kaki* - Japanese persimmon, Kaki

Deciduous tree to 40 feet, native to Japan. Leaves are dark green and glossy on top and

much lighter green and nonglossy on bottom, and up to 8 inches long. Most varieties set seedless fruit without pollination. If male flowers are present the fruit may have seeds. Fruit is yellow to red to orange from 2 to 5 inches in diameter; round, heartshaped, flattened or ridged. There are astringent varieties best ripened on tree and non-astringent ones that may be picked hard and slightly green. The astringent are soft when ripe and some have tasty jelly sections. The non-astringent may be eaten when hard. Propagation is by budding and grafting. Some are put on American persimmon rootstock (*Diospyros virginiana*). One problem with this is numerous root sprouts.

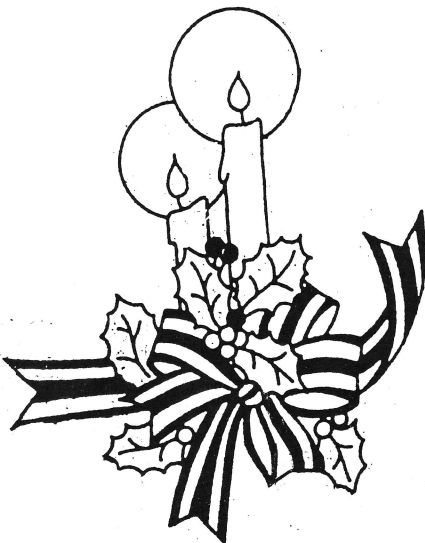


RFCI TAMPA BAY CHAPTER
4109 DeLEON ST
TAMPA FL 33609



FIRST CLASS MAIL

P. JUDSON NEWCOMBE
314 DEER PARK AVE.
TEMPLE TERRACE, FL 33617



*Wishing you and yours all
the joys of the season!*

