



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2004

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

EDITORS: BOB HEATH, PAULA HARDWICK, CHARLES NOVAK, LINDA NOVAK, JIM LEE, SALLY LEE

PRESIDENT: CHARLES NOVAK

WEBSITE: www.rarefruit.org (CHARLES NOVAK)

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

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 14

PROGRAM: OUR SPEAKER THIS MONTH WILL BE CHRIS ROLLINS, WHO IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE FRUIT & SPICE PARK IN HOMESTEAD, FL. The park is devoted to growing tropical fruiting plants and spices from all over the world and is certainly a place which people interested in tropical fruit should visit. Chris will be describing the park, the trees that grow there and the impact it has on the area in Miami. He has spoken to us before and is an interesting and knowledgeable speaker, so this should be a very interesting and informative presentation, after which we will have our plant raffle, tasting table and social hour. Don't forget to bring fruit and veggies for the farmers market.

As usual, we'll meet at the USF Westside Conference Center @ 2:00. For the benefit of our new members, we provide a map on Page 04-72.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Oct - Nov 2004

by PAUL ZMODA

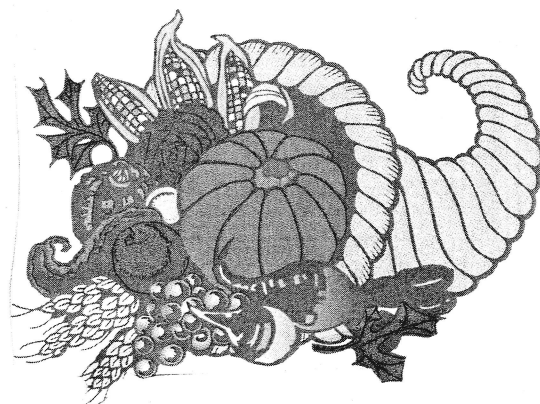
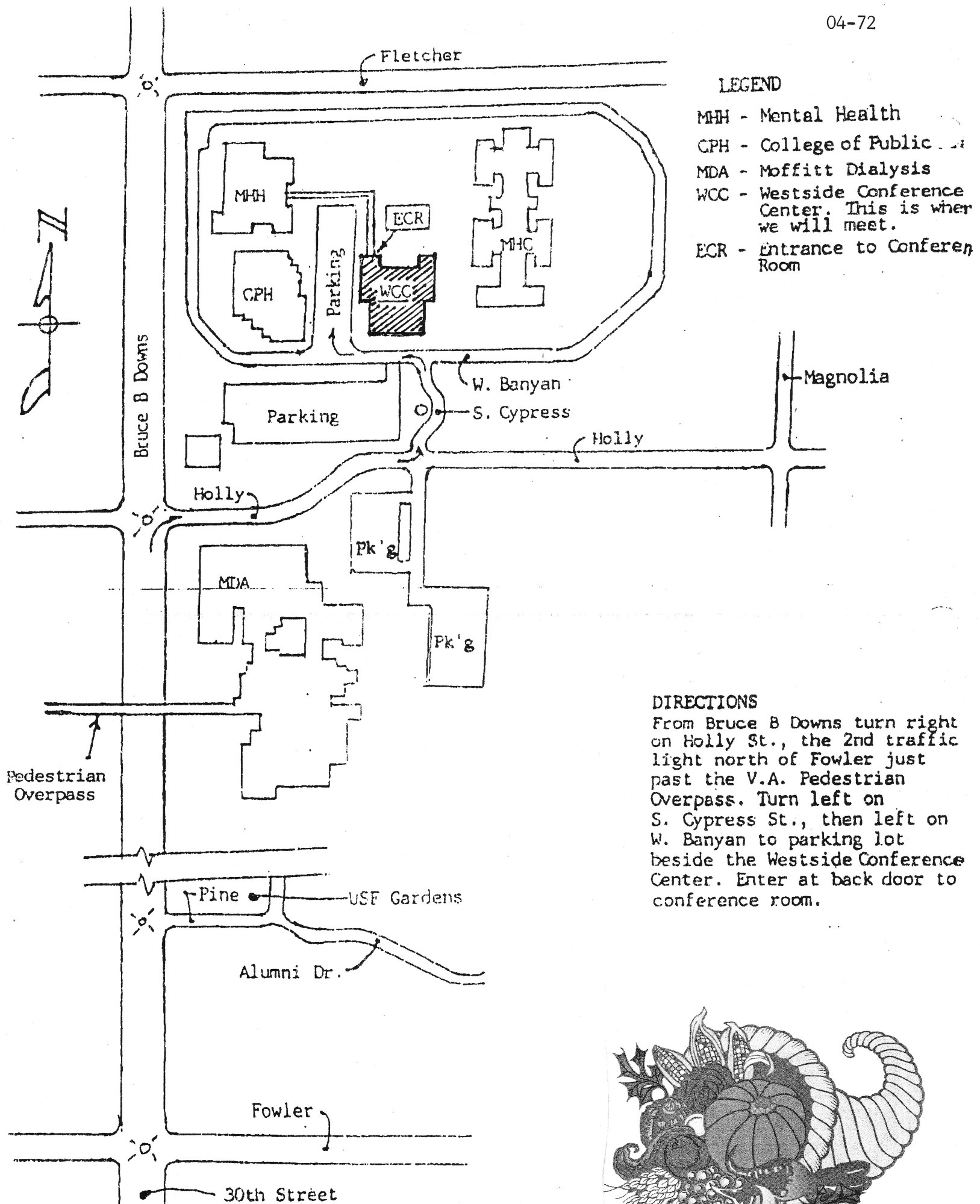
Can we stop with this hurricane business already? Jeanne really put us to the test. Such incredibly strong winds came with her that we didn't want to stick around to see any of our large trees come down. When it was all over, several of our largest pines were noticeably leaning. No trees fell except in our woods, which is littered with blown-down oaks. At this point, some of our treasured olive trees are drowning from too much rain. One white sapote and one good loquat from Italy are dead. The peaches and nectarine died weeks ago. All fruiting bananas blew down except Raja Puri and the delicious Goldfinger. These two are both short, stocky and evidently quite wind-resistant. My little cherimoya fruit, doing so well, disappeared along with its entire branch.

The Northern pawpaw bloomed. I can't explain why it didn't want to wait until spring. I tried to pollinate the flowers - even with some soursop pollen, but they dropped off anyway. I did gather some pawpaw pollen and applied it to a soursop flower because these two trees are very closely related. This flower, too, dropped off as no cross-pollination occurred.

October means it's time to watch out for those nasty twig girdling beetles. Pecans, chestnut and persimmons (and others) are susceptible. I wrap the best branches and leaders with aluminum foil in September and won't unwrap until November. This works well to discourage the female beetle from pruning them off. If you should lose any branches at all, be sure to collect them, watching for the beetle on each piece. She's gray, 1/2 inch long and easy to miss. Burn or bag and dispose of the branches to prevent her eggs from hatching, thus releasing the larvae into your soil, only to return next fall.

A big "thank you" to the judges of our photo contest. I earned first place with my own favorite photo - one of the Peruvian Apple cactus in fruit.

New plantings: Goldfinger banana, "Guthrie" hybrid plum, pond apple, rosemary.



From the President
Charles Novak

What a mess!! It seems as if Hurricane Jeanne finished what Hurricanes Charley and Frances started. I hope other members had less damage than I received from the storm. I lost two very large Oak trees and one smaller tree at the back of my property. To my dismay, they fell on several of my fruiting trees. I took cuttings for grafting from the badly damaged fruit trees. Also, I lost all the plastic covering on my greenhouse. I will be cleaning up for several months. I'm very thankful there was no damage to my home and we were very happy to have electricity and water again after 5 very hot days.

The October USF Botanical Garden Plant Sale was a success. I want to thank our many members who donate their time and energy to help with club events. Sales were down a little from last year but we had great weather and I think everyone had a good time.

This is your club. If you have any ideas and suggestions to improve the club please talk to me or one of the other board members. There will be a board meeting after the regular meeting in November. Members are welcome and encouraged to attend our board meetings.

You should plan to attend the November 14 meeting. Chris Rollins, Director of the Fruit & Spice Park in Homestead, FL, will be our speaker. He always gives a great program. If you have never taken a tour of the Fruit & Spice Park I highly recommend you add it to your list of places to visit.

AMAZON TRIP: If you are planning to go on this trip, you should plan to pay your deposit (\$900) by Dec. 1. More information will be available at the November meeting. Please try to join us on this trip as it is a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity.

If you have extra fruiting plants please donate them to our Plant Exchange. The Plant Exchange and the free Seed Board are great ways to obtain new plants for your garden. When I first joined the club I obtained many of my now fruiting plants from the Plant Exchange.

Scheduled Speakers/Events:

November 14: Chris Rollins, Director of the Fruit & Spice Park in Homestead, FL
December 12: Holiday Social

Membership Directories: If you have not received your new membership directory a copy may be picked up at the November meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting and would like a copy mailed to you, please contact Charles Novak (813) 754-1399 or c.novak@worldnet.att.net

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

First Place:	Paul Zmoda	Cactus fruit
Second Place:	Dorothy Ebanks	Persimmons
Honorable Mention:	Roberta Harris	Passion fruit
	Sally Lee	Longans
	Carl Chapman	Lychees
	Bob Heath	Natal plum
	Ed Musgrave	Sapodillas



The photos will be on display at the November meeting. It is not too soon to start taking your fruit photos for our Second Annual Photo Contest next year. We received some very good photos. The members who entered did a great job. Thanks!



Congratulations to Susan and Sean McAveety on the birth of their baby girl, Michelle Elizabeth, on Saturday, October 9. She arrived a little earlier than expected but Mom, Dad and Baby are all doing fine. Susan has been our Treasurer for almost six years and we really appreciate her and the time she spends fulfilling the duties of Treasurer.

New Members:

Connie Berry	Wesley Chapel	Paul Mahan & Tim Davis	Tampa
David & Melody Bergen	Valrico	Russ Opdahl	Tampa
Nicole Brioni	Lutz	Donna Schneider	Dade City
Richardson & Beverly Chase	Tampa	Chris Schuck	Camarillo, CA
Mary Derrick	Odessa	Robert Volkers	Webster
Ray Goodsell	Tampa	William Vega	Seffner
Anne Grajo	Apollo Beach	Dale & Diane Wallace	Bradenton
William Keiser & Fasnacht Kat	Tampa	Jack & Joan Zaleskie	Tampa
Neddy Lasso	Tampa	David Zaumoyor	Tampa

Welcome. We hope to see you at the November meeting.

MY MARULA TREE

Bob Heath

20 years ago when I bought and planted seeds of the marula tree, little did I know that I would have to wait 20 years before it produced its first fruit. Last year, a year ago, we found one fruit laying on the ground, one fruit in a tree that's 30 feet tall and has a 10" caliper.

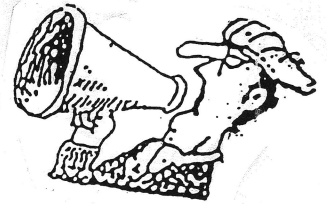
The marula tree, *Sclerocarya birrea caffra*, is native to southern Africa, the original stomping grounds of nurseryman Allen Smith in Pinellas County, who is from Rhodesia and has family there. The fruit is sweet and juicy but has little pulp. However, the seed, as a nut, is very delicious and is the most desirable part of the fruit. My tree fruits in September and October with golf ball sized fruit. The sweet white pulp has more Vitamin C than an orange and the tree should do well in central and south Florida, as it is more cold hardy than a mango. My tree had no cold damage this past winter, but was damaged somewhat the winter before.

The edible fruit and the multiple uses associated with almost all parts of the marula make it one of southern Africa's most valuable trees. It is a medium large deciduous tree with an erect trunk and rounded crown. It is widespread in Africa below the Sahara and south to north South Africa. It occurs naturally in various types of woodlands, on sandy soil or sandy loam. The name *Sclerocarya* means "hard nut" and the species name *birrea* is derived from the word *birr*, the common name used in Senegal. The wood is used for furniture, panelling, flooring, carvings and household utensils like spoons. A red-brown dye is produced from the fresh skin of the bark. The edible fruit is eaten fresh or made into jelly or an alcoholic beer. The white nut is highly nutritious and very tasty.

The tree is somewhat sensitive to frost and grows best in frost free areas. Here in central Florida it must be protected during the first few growing seasons.

MEMBERS CORNER

- FREE - 3 gallon pots. Contact Romagene Vaccaro in the Forest Hills area of Tampa. 813-932-6122



WANTED: 1 gallon pots. Charles Novak. 813-754-1399.

We have some fruiting trees planted in our front yard that we wish to donate to a club member willing to come and dig them up and take them home. The trees are not very large and should be fairly easy to move. Beth & Vern Reddicliffe 813-835-5566.

WHAT TO DO IN YOUR GARDEN

In November

This is a dry month with an average rainfall of 1.63 inches.

Annual flowers are especially valuable in Florida. Many of them bloom during the winter months, contributing splendidly toward a colorful landscape and producing blooms for home decorations. Other annual flowers grow and flower during the trying months of June, July, August, and September, persistently blooming through the heat and summer rains.

Florida soils are usually infertile. Flower beds should be prepared and fertilized prior to planting time and fertilized again every two to three weeks. Apply a quality 6-6-6 with added essential elements, or similar complete fertilizer, at the rate of 2 pounds per 100 square feet of bed area for each application. You can also use this method to fertilize your vegetable garden.

Watch for insects. When you see caterpillars feeding, use an insecticide containing *Bacillus thuringiensis*. It is sometimes called Dipel or Thuricide. Aphids and other soft-bodied insects can be killed with an insecticidal soap.

If you use the above insecticides, you will not be killing your beneficial insects. This procedure really works. I have not had to use an aphicide in my vegetable garden for years because I am not killing my beneficial insects.

It is now time for a very important fertilization of your azaleas, camellias, ixoras, and other acid-loving plants. Feed them with a quality azalea-camellia special fertilizer.

Plant rosebushes now for a beautiful spring display. Prepare a good rose bed and buy rosebushes grafted on Fortuniana or Dr. Huey rootstocks. You should plant them at the same depth that they were growing in their containers.

Now is a good time to plant or transplant cold hardy landscape plants, for they will become established during the winter and be ready to grow off with the coming of spring.

If you want a green lawn this winter, you may wish to interplant your lawn with ryegrass. This will require an additional fertilization and increased mowing, but it will give you a green lawn all winter long.

In December

The average rainfall is 2.06 inches.

Continue fertilizing your annual flowers and vegetable plants. Apply a quality fertilizer containing added essential elements every two to three weeks.

We now find that many of our old landscape practices are wrong. For instance, the practice of applying wound dressings and pruning paints to pruning cuts provide a good example of a practice that gives no benefit to a plant. Wound dressings do not prevent wood decay behind a pruning cut. When exposed to the sun these protective coatings often crack allowing moisture to accumulate in pockets between the wood and wound covering. This situation will be more inviting to wood rotting organisms than one with no wound cover.

Now is a good time to prune to size dormant trees, shrubs, and vines. This pruning is very important if you wish to keep your plants shapely and of the proper size.

Give your gardening friends a gardening gift this Christmas: a book on Florida gardening, a plant that they have admired, or a garden tool. These are gifts that keep on giving.

If you have interplanted your lawn with ryegrass, you should fertilize it about now and continue to mow it when needed.

All of us should have a compost pile where we can compost our fallen leaves and other organic matter.

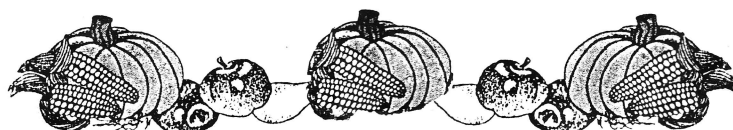
Caring for your lawn. Proper fertilizing, watering, mowing, and pest control measures are required to produce a good lawn. If the grass is weakened by improper management practices, it cannot compete with weeds.

If proper mowing height and frequency are maintained, many annual weeds will be eliminated. Mowing prior to seed head formation will also reduce weed seeds in your lawn.

Damage to lawn grass caused by a dull lawn mower increases the time needed for the grass to recover.

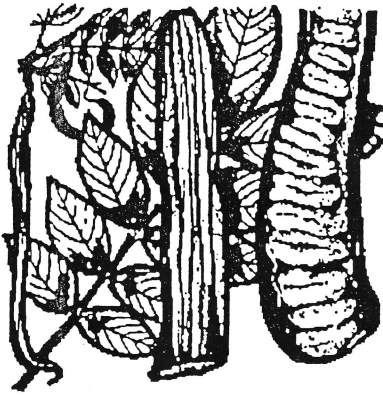
How to recognize problems with your house plants. It is very important that you learn to recognize the requirements of your house plants.

Brown leaf tips or margins indicate too much fertilizer or too dry soil. Spindly new growth or yellowing older growth indicates too little light. Wilting and yellowing indicate too much water or poor drainage.



90. *Dialium guineense* - Velvet tamarind

Deciduous tree to 60 feet, native to South-east Asia. Branchlets are hairy and rust colored. Flower buds are rusty-hairy and develop into small white flowers. Fruit is flat, about 1 inch across, and velvety with orange-red pulp which is edible. Sweet-sour pulp is eaten fresh. Plants are started from seed.

91. *Inga edulis* - Monkey tamarind, Ice cream bean

Tree to 50 feet, native to South America. Flowers are produced all year. Its cylinder-like green pod reaches a length of 40 inches. Interior fruit color is white. It is eaten fresh and propagated by seed.

92. *Inocarpus fagiferus* - Tahiti chestnut

Large tree, native to the Pacific Islands. Nuts produced are chestnut-like in flavor. They are eaten fresh, boiled or roasted. Propagation is by seed.

93. *Parkia biglobosa* - African locust

Tree to 50 feet, native to Africa. Leaves are fern-like. Flowers are orange-red and 1-1/2 inches in diameter. Flat fruit is brown and more than 1 foot long. Yellow pulp is made into a drink or used in flavoring other foods. Propagation is by seed.

94. *Pithecellobium dulce* - Manila tamarind

Spiny tree to 60 feet, native to the Philippines. Pods are long, spiraling and red in color. When open, the pulp is white, spongy and sweet with black seeds. Pulp is used fresh or in drinks. Wood is used for lumber. The bark produces a dye, adhesive gum and tannin. Propagated by seed, cuttings or air layering.

Happy Thanksgiving

P. J. DIXON NEW ORLEANS
STADLER PARK AVE.
TEMPLE TERRACE, FL 33617

FIRST CLASS MAIL



TAMPA BAY CHAPTER RCFC
4109 DeLeon
Tampa FL 33609