



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2005

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: APRIL 9 & 10 @ USF (SEE BELOW)

PROGRAM: THE USF SPRING PLANT FESTIVAL IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 9 & 10. Consequently, we will forego our usual monthly meeting which would be on the 2nd Sunday of the month, Apr 10, to participate in the USF Plant Festival. All members are invited to participate & bring plants to donate or sell. Parking is free but admission is \$3.00 for which the Club will reimburse workers who participate in the Sale. This is an interesting affair & well worth the admission. Likewise it is a social event as well as a money maker for the Club. We will have no tasting table or plant raffle. But we desperately need workers. Charles Novak & some of our regular workers will be in South America so we need extra workers. Please make a special effort to help at this important event.

USF SPRING PLANT FESTIVAL

The RFCI will participate in the USF Plant Festival on Apr 9 & 10, 2005. This is an important fund raiser & all members are invited to attend, to assist in the Sale, to sell plants, to enjoy the camaraderie & to visit other groups.

Our participation will begin around 1:00 Friday afternoon, Apr 8, raising tents, setting up tables, arranging plants & posters, til about 6:00 pm.

On Saturday, Apr 9, the Gardens will be open from 7:00 to 9:00 AM for our final preparations.

The front gate will close at 8:30 AM on Saturday & Sunday, & participants will enter by the side south gate after the front gate closes, on foot, until 9:00. Public will be admitted at 10:00 on both days. Admission is \$3.00.

From 7:00 to 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. Only after 4:15 on Saturday & 3:40 on Sunday, 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 in the south parking lot.

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 ID cards for RFCI workers. Only those with ID 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. Wear your RFCI T-shirt.

DIRECTIONS TO USF SPRING 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 on the left. We will be in the southeast corner of the Gardens.

SOME LESSER KNOWN FRUIT

by Billy Hopkins of Hopkins Nursery

ALLSPICE

Allspice is an edible berry, mostly used for spices in cooking. It is hardy down to about 22° with very little damage, so it can be grown here with little concern for the freezes. The spice is probably from the Far East but it is imported today from the islands. The berries are dried and ground up to produce the spice that we know so well. The leaves are also used as a spice in cooking. It may be used in marinade when cooking roasts or lobsters and also may be used in potpourri.

BAY RUM

Bay rum is a lesser known relative of allspice. It is used occasionally in cooking but it's more commonly used medically throughout the Tropics and also in aftershave and skin lotions. Like allspice, it is a cold hardy tree, columnar, about 20' with an 8' spread. The bay rum has an edible fruit but it doesn't taste like much.

CHERRY OF THE RIO GRANDE

This is a tree that Hopkins has been trying to push for central and north central Florida. It produces a nice cherry-like fruit, elongated and dark purple in color. It's in the same *Eugenia* family as the Surinam cherry. It is relatively cold hardy and will make a tree up to 20' tall. It may be topped out to keep it more manageable and more convenient for picking the fruit. The trees need full sun, lots of moisture and are heavy feeders.

GRUMICHAMA

The grumichama is another small fruit. It will take temperatures down into the low 20's and is another one that the Hopkins Nursery is pushing. It can be grown as a bush in a hedge or as a small tree. The trees are not drought tolerant and will even take some standing water.

GUAVA

The common guava is one of the largest genera of fruit that can be grown in this area. It is a popular fruit and has been used by people around the world for years. The trees are fairly cold tender, however, getting leaf damage below the freezing point. Guavas used to be common, growing wild in this area before the cold that we've been getting over the last 20 years. 60 years ago, they were very common in the woods as a native plant. The guava varieties range in size all the way from the 1" pink up through about a 4" white fleshed fruit. The entire fruit is edible with the exception of the seeds that occupy a good portion of the central core. The fruit is good eaten out of hand for those who have acquired the taste and makes an excellent jelly and guava paste. There is also a guava called the Indonesian seedless, which is without seeds. It tends to be more columnar and doesn't spread out as the common guava does. The red and yellow Cattley guavas are close cousins to the common guava, but the fruit are small, may be 1" to 1½" at maximum size. However, the Cattley is much more cold hardy than the common guava.

JABOTICABA

The jaboticaba is one of Hopkins' favorites, and most people who eat it agree. They grow in the Amazon River flood zone where they originated and where the ground is frequently flooded for extended periods of time, so they enjoy having wet feet. Because of this, they have a very shallow root structure. As with some other tropical fruit trees, it produces fruit right on the main trunk and large branches where it flowers with a beautiful white flower and fruits profusely with a 1" diameter purple muscadine-like grape fruit. They make an excellent jelly and a very good wine. It is a slow growing tree and is very difficult to air layer or graft, so almost all the trees are grown from seed, and we're looking at 8 to 10 years from seed to fruit.

MALAY APPLE

The Malay apple is a fruit that we can only dream about because it is so cold tender. Even down where Billy has his farm, they sweat out the cold weather. However, it does produce an excellent fruit and one that Billy says we should certainly try if we get the opportunity. Anyone who has a greenhouse can probably grow it and look forward to a summer and a winter crop. It produces a beautiful magenta flower and pretty red bell shaped fruit.

PITOMBA

The pitomba is a small fruit growing on a bush plant that never gets over about 8 or 9' with a spread of about 8 or 9' also. The fruit is about 1½" long, produced in the spring or early summer, with a very pleasant taste eaten out of hand. It is also fairly cold hardy, taking temperatures down to the low 20's without too much damage.

WAX JAMBU

This is one of Billy's favorite fruit but it tends to be very bland eaten out of hand. It does make an excellent apple pie, though. It is a relatively small tree although it has been known to reach 50' in height with an open, wide spreading crown. The fruit is either white or red, bell shaped, similar to the Malay apple. It is also very cold tender, although not as sensitive as the Malay apple.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Mar - Apr 2005

by PAUL ZMODA

I received the shipment of mushroom spawn and inoculated live oak logs with it. The logs are now resting in the shade under an old blanket and are hosed down weekly with water. The species I inoculated were: *Grifola frondosa*, *Pleurotus ostreatus* and *Laetiporus conifericola*. All are from Fungi Perfecti (Fungi.com).

I ordered some hard-to-find citrus seeds from California: the Japanese Yuzu (citrus Junos). They arrived pre-sprouted and are doing quite well. Yuzu fruit is very popular in Japan and on the west coast and are valued for their unique flavor in various dishes.

One day in February, I checked one of our soursop trees to see how the largest fruit was doing. It wasn't where I had last seen it. Instead, it was two feet lower, fully ripened, and safely cradled in a pantyhose sling which caught it when it dropped free of its branch. At a full four pounds, it was soft, aromatic and ready to be made into juice, ice cream or rum drinks. This very tropical fruit tree provides us with this occasional exotic treat which is always appreciated.

Retired grape breeder, Robert Zehnder of Summerville, SC, sent me some cuttings of his special grape hybrids. They are rooting and budding quite nicely at this time.

Star fruit trees are overloaded with carambolas now. They always produce too many fruits; lots go to waste on the ground, but there are much more to be picked and used.

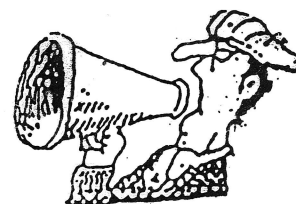
New Plantings: 'Brogdon' avocado, grumichama, white sapote, persimmons 'Keener' and 'Rosseyanka' curry tree, beans, peppers, pumpkins, watermelon, pigeon peas & cucumbers.

MARCH PLANT EXCHANGE

PLANT	DONOR	WINNER
Cuban Oregano	Bob Heath	?
Loquat	"	Creighton
Imbe	"	Johnnie Worsham
Pineapple	"	Vega
Cabeluda	"	?
Surinam Cherry	"	Eva Golden
Surinam Cherry	"	Chet Davis
Red Lime	"	Robertta Harris
Beauty Berry	"	David Worsham
Banana	"	Tom Schaefer
Longan	Lee's	?
Papaya	"	Mary Ann Branesky
Orange Berry	"	Mabel Galbreath
Passion Fruit	"	Amanda Harris
Java Plum	"	Ian
Avocado	"	?
Jamaican Yam	"	?
16 Papaya Fruits	"	Vega
Plant Labels	Zmoda	Paul Branesky
Plant Labels	"	"
Indian River Red Grapefruit	B. Reddicliffe	Creighton
Indian River Red Grapefruit	"	?
Avocado	Vega	Bill Marler
Avocado	"	Walsh
Grapefruit	"	?
Black Surinam Cherry	Charles Novak	?
Black Surinam Cherry	"	?
Jackfruit	"	Chet Davis
Juba Bush	Joanne Kitchen	Ed Walsh
Egg Fruit Tree	Tony Ferreira	?
Papaya & Honey Murcot Tangerine	"	Bobbie Parker
Papaya	Ed & Lorraine Walsh	Judy Cimafranca
Pineapple Slip	T. Scott	?
Pineapple Slip	"	?
Pineapple Crown	"	?
Pineapple Crown	"	?
Surinam Cherry	"	Mary Ann Branesky
Surinam Cherry	"	Eva Golden
Loquat	"	?
Banana	M. Hymes	Betty Bruder
Banana	"	Vikki Sinclair
Avocada Seedling	J. Gibson	?
Avocado Seedling	"	?
Red Surinam Cherry	Bobbie Parker	?
Musa Ornata	Judy Cimafranca	Teri Worsham
Pink Pomelo Seedlings	"	?
Ylaney Ylatg	"	Pat Cascio
Cat & Dog Repellent Herb	Sonia Bigelow	?
Papaya	?	Keith Kirby

MEMBERS CORNER

Free for the digging - Raphis palms, big & small. Call for more information. Marilyn Chavez 813-932-9077.



From the President

Charles Novak

I want to *thank* the Board for electing me *president* for the coming year. Also, *thanks* to the membership for all the help in making this a great club. The events in which the club participates would not be a success without the time and effort donated by our members.

I'm sure everyone enjoyed the presentation by Billie Hopkins of Tropical Fruit Nursery last month. Barbara and Billie Hopkins generously donated several fruiting plants for auction to the members.

We need your help at the USF Botanical Garden Spring Plant Festival (April 9 & 10). Please help on at least one of the following days: Friday (3PM) - help unload plants and set up, Saturday (9AM-4PM) and Sunday (9AM-4PM) - help where needed during the sale and help load plants after the sale. This year we will be missing 5 of our members who will be leaving Saturday morning, April 9, for the Amazon. We hope to bring back seeds for the club and a lot of photos. We will share our experiences with members at a meeting in the near future.

If you have not been to one of these plant festivals, you will be amazed at the many different plants and trees that will be available for purchase. You will enjoy talking with the public about the joys and rewards of growing rare and tropical fruits. Many of our new members join at the plant sales. This is the perfect opportunity for you to sell your extra fruiting plants (*only fruiting plants*) and to purchase new plants.

I would like to thank the club members who donate plants and fruit for the plant exchange and contribute the delicious items to the tasting table. It is greatly appreciated.

If you know of someone who might present a program of interest to club members, please contact Jimmy & Sally Lee at (813) 982-9359 or me at (813) 754-1399. Also, if you have any suggestions concerning field trips, other activities, the newsletter, etc., please contact any of the Board members and we will discuss it.

Note: If your membership expired in March and you haven't renewed yet, please do so soon. You wouldn't want to miss the interesting and informative programs and speakers, our newsletter or the fun times we have.

Scheduled programs/speakers:

April 9 & 10: USF Botanical Garden Spring Plant Festival

May 8: Gene Joyner-Unbelievable Acres Botanic Garden in West Palm Beach

New Members:	Joseph Cascio	Land O' Lakes	Tom Shaefer	Brandon
	David Roe	Valrico	Jeffrey Hashimie	Tampa
	Bryce & Melanie Creighton	Lithia		



Events of Interest: Sunday, May 15, Manatee RFCI Annual Tree Sale WWW.MRFC.ORG
 July 7-10, Rare Fruit Conference, sponsored by The Friends of The Fruit & Spice Park, Homestead, FL www.fruitandspicepark.org

BOOK REVIEW

by PAUL ZMODA

Uncommon Fruits Worthy of Attention
A Gardener's Guide

by Lee Reich 1991 273 pages

Addison-Wesley Publishing Co. Inc.

This book is a valuable addition to your library because it covers fruiting plants that you don't often see mentioned elsewhere. There are chapters on quite a few fairly obscure species that are more temperate than semi-tropical. But many are adaptable or even possibly native to our growing region. Mentioned are paw paw, medlar, maypop (a wild passion fruit), raisin tree, jujubes and many others. The book is chock full of information on varieties, cultivation advice, history and practical uses of each fruit. There are chapters on pruning and propagation, including grafting. The few illustrations are pen-and-ink drawings, accurately rendered.

Board of Directors: Charles Novak-President
Bob Heath-V. President
Jimmy Lee-V. President
Jerry Amyot-V. President
Susan McAveety-Treasurer
Linda Novak-Secretary

Thom Scott
Sally Lee
Walt Yoblonski
Jerry Springer
Paul Branesky
Judith Cimafranca

Fred Engelbrecht
Steve Brosh
Steve Lohn
Verna Dickey

Tasting Table March 2005

P. Zmoda	Stuffed Rambutans	J. Newcombe	Starfruit & papaya
M. Lohn	Chicken & rice	T. Scott	Coleslaw & starfruit
B. Reddicliffe	Potato salad	M. Chavez	Meat pie
C. Coronel	Mochico bibingka	L. Walsh	Rice/baked beans
J. Gibson	Strawberry-banana bread	Debbie C.	Brownies
V. Sinclair	Pistachios & dates	M. Galbreath	Mei Choc paneer
D. Butts	Organic strawberries & dip	M. Branesky	Pancit
M. Kirby	Salt fish fritters	S. Quenan	Chocolate cake
F. Engelbrecht	Caribbean pineapple cake	Musgraves	Cherry dump cake
B. Parker	Rice bread/tuna salad		
S. Bigelow	Almond Strawberry Russian Pudding		
S. Lee	Strawberries, coconut cake, fruit bites, donuts, brownies		
L. Novak	Citrus marmalade & crackers, banana cookies, fruit kabobs, tropical chicken salad & chips, fresh fruit platter, juices		

Gardening Quotes:

Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom. *Marcel Proust*

You don't have a garden just for yourself. You have it to share. *Augusta Carter*

Friendship is a sheltering tree. *Samuel Taylor Coleridge*

I've learned that people are just like plants. You treat them nice, and they will do the same for you. *James P. Glasre*

TOOTIE FRUITY

How does your little garden grow?
Take pen in hand and let us know.
Tell us of your fruit delicious -
Or was your fruit all merely wishes?

Write about all your successes
Or even write about your messes.
Pears and plums and nectarines,
Sugar peas and yard long beans.

All fruit recipes, nutritious,
Send us in your favorite dishes.
Tell us how you manage bugs
And eliminate them garden slugs.

Antique methods or new creations
For growing gorgeous vegetations.
Have you planted some rare seed,
Then pulled it out, "It's just a weed"?

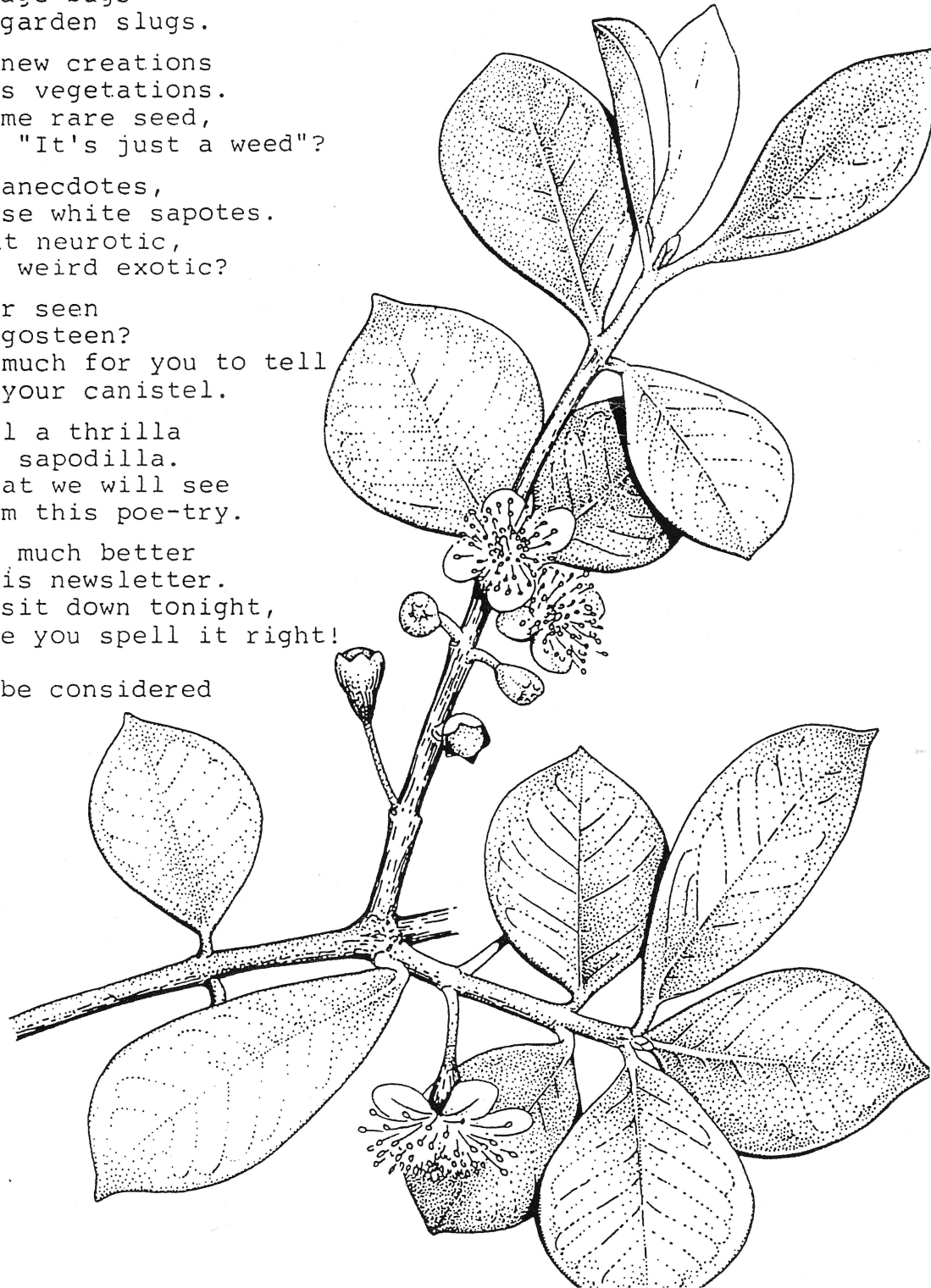
Planting hints and anecdotes,
On how you grew those white sapotes.
Do you feel somewhat neurotic,
Trying to grow that weird exotic?

Have any of you ever seen
A Tampa-growing mangosteen?
We're sure there's much for you to tell
'Bout how you grow your canistel.

It would give us all a thrilla
To learn about your sapodilla.
We hope some day that we will see
Your fruit grow from this poe-try.

If your mango grows much better
Send a photo for this newsletter.
Just write it out, sit down tonight,
But please make sure you spell it right!

(All articles will be considered
for publication.)

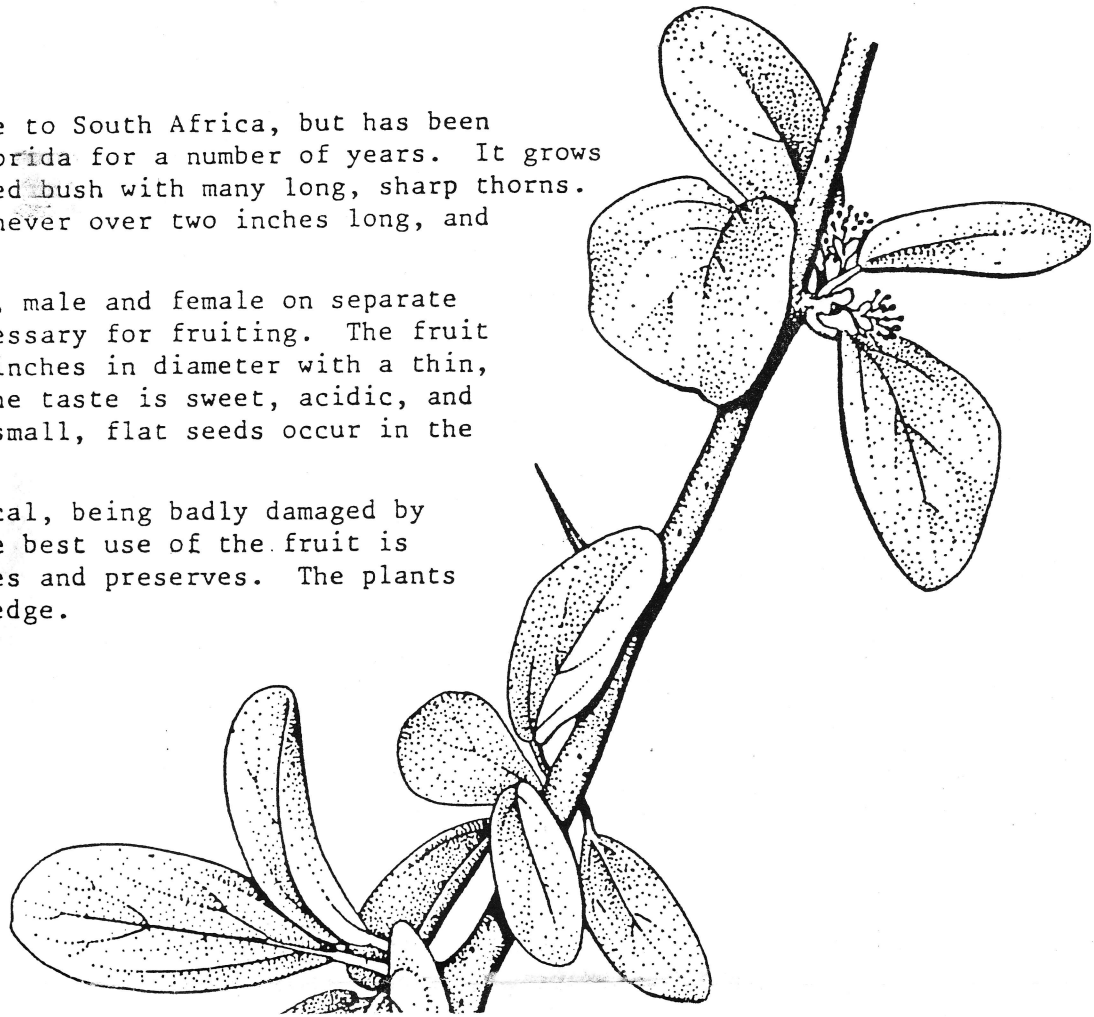


THE KEI APPLE

The kei apple is native to South Africa, but has been cultivated in south Florida for a number of years. It grows as a dense much branched bush with many long, sharp thorns. The leaves are small, never over two inches long, and ovate in form.

The flowers are yellow, male and female on separate plants so both are necessary for fruiting. The fruit is spherical up to two inches in diameter with a thin, smooth yellow skin. The taste is sweet, acidic, and aromatic. Two to ten small, flat seeds occur in the core.

The kei apple is tropical, being badly damaged by 25° temperatures. The best use of the fruit is in the making of jellies and preserves. The plants make an impenetrable hedge.



FIRST CLASS MAIL



TAMPA BAY CHAPTER RFCI
4109 DeLeon St
Tampa FL 33609

**Botanical Gardens at
and**



**Tampa Bay Area's
Largest Plant
Happening**

**Rare Fruit Council
present**

The Botanical Gardens at USF

2005 Spring Plant Festival

**Bonsai Display
Presented by the
Hukyu Bonsai
Society**



**April 9 & 10
Saturday 10:00-4:00
Sunday 10:00-3:00**

**\$3 admission; children under 12 & USF
Botanical Garden members are admitted free.**

**Advice from
the
Experts**

**The What? Where? Why?
Of your landscape**

**Ask the Experts how to add pizzazz to your yard.
Don't miss the fun and plants galore!**

**Find orchids, begonias, bonsai, cactus, aroids,
succulents, butterfly plants, camellias, bamboo,
tropical fruit, citrus, gingers, plumeria, palms,
bromeliads, carnivorous plants, African violets,
heirloom plants, herbs, ferns, & lots more.**



**Botanical Gardens
At USF**

USF Botanical Gardens
4202 E. Fowler Ave
NES107
Tampa, FL 33620-5150
Website: www.cas.usf.edu/garden

The USF Botanical Garden is located on the Tampa campus of USF at the corner of Pine & Alumni Drive. One block north of the Fowler & Bruce B. Downs intersection take first right at light, which is Pine. Follow Pine around to the left and the Garden entrance is on the left.

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E-mail: khutton@cas.usf.edu