



RFCI

NEWSLETTER
TAMPA BAY CHAPTER of the
RARE FRUIT COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL INC

09-21

APRIL 2009

EDITORS: BOB HEATH, PAULA HARDWICK, CHARLES NOVAK, LINDA NOVAK, GLORIA SCIUTO

PRESIDENT: PAUL BRANESKY

WEBSITE: www.rarefruit.org (CHARLES NOVAK)

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

NEXT MEETING: APR 11 & 12 @ USF (SEE BELOW)

PROGRAM: THE USF FALL PLANT FESTIVAL IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 11 & 12. Consequently, we will forego our usual monthly meeting which would be on the 2nd Sunday, Apr 12, to participate in the USF Plant Festival. All members are invited to participate and bring plants to donate or sell. Parking is free but admission is \$4.00, for which the Club will reimburse workers who participate 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. We will have no tasting table or plant raffle. But we desperately need workers. Let's make this USF Sale our big one. Please join us!

USF SPRING PLANT FESTIVAL

The RFCI will participate in the USF Plant Festival on APR. 11 & 12, 2009. This is an important fund raiser and all members are invited to attend, to assist in the Sale, to sell plants, to enjoy the camaraderie and visit other groups.

Our participation will begin around 3:00 Friday afternoon, Apr. 10, raising tents, setting up tables, arranging plants and posters, till about 6:00 p.m.

On Saturday, Apr. 11, the Gardens will be open from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. for our final preparations.

The front gate will close at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday & Sunday, and participants will enter by the side south gate after the front gate closes, on foot, until 9:00. The public will be admitted at 10 a.m. on both days. Admission is \$4.00.

From 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. on Saturday & Sunday, traffic will be one way, in the front gate & out the side gate. The Festival will end at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday & 3:00 p.m. 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.

We have provided ID cards for RFCI workers. Only those with ID cards will be admitted 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 PLANT FESTIVAL

Enter the Gardens from Bruce B Downs one block north of Fowler, turn East on Pine St. & Left at Alumni Drive. Go one block to the Gardens entrance on the left. We will be in the southeast corner of the Gardens.

IMPORTANT: Members bringing plants to sell need to restrict sales to fruiting plants only – no ornamentals or flowers.

April 11-12: USF Botanical Garden Spring Plant Festival

Board of Directors:

Paul Branesky – President		
Bob Heath, Jimmy Lee, Charles Novak, Jerry Amyot – V. Presidents		
Linda Novak – Secretary		
Susan McAveety – Treasurer		
Andrew Hendrickson	Fred Engelbrecht	Thom Scott
Sally Lee	Verna Dickey	Judith Cimafranca
Teri Worsham	Mark Foltarz	

Tasting Table March 2009

Johnston	Tropical fruit cobbler	Coronel	Biko
Vega	Pigeon bean w/rice, papaya dessert	Millar	Brownies
Golden	Three bean Salad	Branesky	Tomato salad
Saceda-Bigelow	Vegetable casserole	Scott	Red grapes
Sawada	Crudites w/4 dips	Lohn	Cookies
Shigemura	Assorted desserts, dried fruit	Lee	Strawberries
Lavalette	Noodles salad w/peanut sauce	Sciuto	Cookies
Maranto	Ambrosia, Kringle	R. Harris	Mango
Pope-Champagne	Ginger cake	Theryo	Fried noodles
Phillos	Spring raspberry dip treat	Terenzi	Lemon cakes (2)
Reddicliffe	Tropical Ambrosia salad	McCormack	Caramel cake
Novak	Chicken pasta salad, fresh fruit tray, Strawberry banana bread w/ strawberry spread, guava nut bread with cream cheese icing, juices		

And other items not listed on the signup sheet. Thanks to everyone for their generous donations to the Tasting table. Remember to ask for you free plant exchange ticket.

FRUIT TREES FOR SALE

***** At the end of this Plant Sale on Sunday (3 PM) and after the Post Inventory is completed club members will have the opportunity to purchase the remaining fruit trees.** Members who help for at least 5 hours on Saturday or Sunday can purchase these remaining trees at club cost. Non-working members can purchase these remaining trees at club cost plus 10%. Working Members can flag the trees they are interested in purchasing at 2 PM. Non-working Members can flag trees at 2:30 PM. **Trees cannot be removed from the Sale area until the Post Inventory is completed. The flagged trees remain available for purchase by the public until 3 PM.** When the Post Inventory is completed club members can then purchase their selected fruit trees. If you have questions please call Charles Novak (813)754-1399 or Sally Lee (813) 982-9359.

FRUIT QUOTES

“A table, a chair, a bowl of fruit and a violin; what else does a man need to be happy?”

Albert Einstein

“You’ve got to go out on a limb sometimes because that’s where the fruit is.”

At the March Board meeting, a new president was elected and will be introduced at the May meeting. I had a wonderful time these past 2 years spending time with generous and proactive members, who make this club one of the best I have had the pleasure of being part of. My thanks to all those who supported me and participated in the activities. I know we can count on your continued support for the new president.

Our Spring Plant Sale at USF in April is around the corner and we need you all to come out and support this worthwhile event.

Fred Engelbrecht

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to thank the RFCI Board members for choosing me as president for the year to come. I hope I can fill the shoes of the last 4 or 5 who held this position.

Right now we are looking ahead to the April Plant Sale at USF Botanical Gardens. As always, we will need help on Friday afternoon to help set up for the Saturday & Sunday sale.

I want to thank the following members for all the hard work they did in years past. If I miss anyone here, I will definitely bring it up at the next meeting. Bob Heath, Linda & Charles Novak, Sally & Jimmy Lee, Fred Engelbrecht, Roberta Harris, Rose Terenzi, Susan McAveety, Jerry Amyot, Paul Zmoda, Verna Dickey & Thom Scott.

If you have any fruiting plants that you want to get rid of, now is the time. Bring them to the plant sale. You just may have the plant that someone is looking for. I know that quite a few people got hit hard with this winter freeze.

SEE YOU AT THE SALE... Paul Branesky

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Mar-Apr 2009

By PAUL ZMODA

Amateur winemaking has always appealed to me. I've been making wine from all sorts of fruit since 1972, some good, some bad and some just so-so. Over the years I have studied winemaking and learned from professionals, as well as from my own mistakes. This year marks the first time I impressed the judges enough to earn a bronze (3rd place) medal in the hobbyist division of the 21st annual International Wine Competition held at our State Fair.

My wine entry was a sweet rose' made with my grape: Il Primo. I have overcome this hurdle, a goal of mine, to prove that this grape can produce a decent wine. Future goals include producing wines for gourmet restaurants under their exclusive labels.

On Feb. 23 at 1:00 pm, I was the featured radio guest of RFCI members Jon & Debbie Butts on WMNF (FM). Their "alternative radio" program is called "Sustainable Living". The topic was backyard fruit growing and was followed by a listener call-in with questions/comments. They gave me a full hour on this, my second appearance on their show. I was happy to contribute to my favorite radio station. You can still hear the program through your computer by going to WMNF.org and checking the archives for Feb. 23, 2009 @ 1:00 P.M. And yes, we plugged the Rare Fruit Council quite a bit!

Our bluebirds have babies, 5 in all.

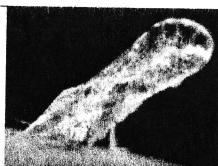
New plantings: Satsuma Mandarin grape vines, tomatoes, pole beans, lablab beans, Chinese squash & cucuzza gourds.

Citrus Greening in Florida

It's serious and it's here in Florida. Citrus Greening was the subject of Professor Thomas Speen's discussion at our March 2009 meeting.

What is Citrus Greening?

Citrus greening, also known as Huanglongbing (HLB) or Yellow Dragon, is a bacterial disease that attacks all varieties of citrus trees, causing them to produce bitter and inedible fruit. The disease is spread by a psyllid (or small insect with hind legs adapted for jumping).



It's hard to believe that an Asian citrus psyllid approximately 3mm long has caused untold damage to citrus trees here in Florida.

Citrus green has three different forms, Asian, African and Brazilian. It's believed to have started in Asia and Africa. In 2003, it had spread to Sao Paulo, Brazil – the largest producer of orange juice in the world. In 2005, the Asian form was first found in Dade County. The disease quickly spread throughout the state of Florida.

There is currently no known cure for citrus greening.

Detection

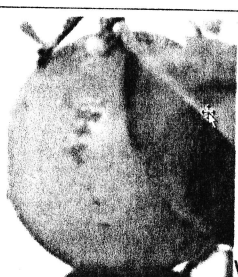
It's difficult to detect citrus greening. According to Dr. Speen, once a citrus tree is infected, there is a latency period of up to two years before a mature tree may exhibit symptoms. Even after exhibiting symptoms, it may take several more years before the entire tree is infected.

A new tree may show symptoms right away; however, these symptoms can be confused with nutritional issues.

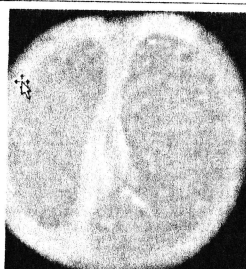
When trees do show symptoms, they include the following:



Splotchy fruit & leaves



Pitting



Misshapen, inedible fruit



Yellowing of leaves

How Can We Stop This Disease?

Here are some guidelines for stopping the spread of citrus greening:

- Scout and eradicate sick trees
- Purchase only certified trees from registered nurseries
- Never bring plants, fruits, vegetables or illegal animals into the state
- Consider natural alternatives

Scout and Eradicate Sick Trees

Scout your trees 4 times a year by looking at every leave on every tree. You are more likely to see citrus greening disease when a tree is dormant.

If you do see evidence of citrus greening, it is important to destroy the tree. You may be tempted to salvage fruit from a partially infected tree, but you may be letting the disease spread to nearby trees in the meantime. If you are not sure, you can contact the plant inspection service at the Division of Plant Industry in Winter Haven at 1-800-282-5153.

Purchase Only Certified Trees from Registered Nurseries

Avoid bringing home an infected tree by only buying new citrus trees that are grown in closed nurseries. While it might cost more, buying trees from registered nurseries helps stop the spread of citrus greening to your trees and to others throughout the state.

Never Bring Plants, Fruits, Vegetables or Illegal Animals into the State

Clearly, this is how the disease reached our state in the first place. We now have citrus greening present in every county in Florida. HLB has not been seen in other states in the U.S., and we want to be sure to contain the disease so it does not continue to spread.

Consider Natural Alternatives

The aroma from the Asian guava repels the psyllids, however, the odor doesn't persist long enough to completely eradicate them. The guava is also very sensitive to cold, so this may not be a viable alternative.

Citrus Management and the State of Florida

According to Dr. Speen, the state of Florida has an ambitious multi-million dollar program underwritten mostly by local growers. There has been talk about growing citrus in some kind of large enclosure and the possibility of bioengineering a disease-resistant citrus tree, but until something significant happens to stop the spread of citrus greening, it's important for all of us to be vigilant and to do our part.

For more information, contact your county extension office or the state at 1-800-282-5153. To receive the *Citrus Update* monthly newsletter, send your name and email address to canker-greeningupdates.crec.ifas.ufl.edu or call Dr. Jim Graham of the University of Florida Citrus Research and Education Center (CREC) at 1-863-956-1151.

MARCH PLANT EXCHANGE

PLANT	DONOR	WINNER
Surinam Cherry	B. Heath	Kathy Johnston
Surinam Cherry	"	?
Surinam Cherry	"	?
Surinam Cherry	"	Mary Lohn
Abakka Pineapple	"	?
Chaya Spinach	"	Rose Frankland
Chaya Spinach	"	Logan Randolph
Carissa	"	Teresa Klingler
Gac	"	Logan Randolph
Kamuning	Sonia F Saceda-Bigelow	?
Loquat: Big Israel	Don Haselwood	Roberta Harris
Big Israel Loquat	"	M. Foltarz
Surinam Cherry	Rose Frankland	Nancy Alguire
Lemon Grass	"	?
Amarillas (apple)	"	Judy Cimafranca
Tomato plant	Sully Lavalette	Michael Nizan
Tomato plant	"	Logan Randolph
Cherry of Rio Grande	Ed Musgrave	Ron Shigemura
Cherry of Rio Grande	"	Vega
Dragon fruit	Judith Pope-Champagne	Sally Lee
Chinese Lantern Hibiscus	Nancy McCormack	?
Tabebuoa Ipe pink	Beth Reddicliffe	?
Tabebuoa Ipe pink	"	?
Butterfly plant	"	R. Harris
Ruby Red Pomelo	Judy Cimafranca	Teri Worsham
Pomelo	"	R. Shigemura

Vacations Improve Your Work

Time to kick back, forget about the office and get some R&R. But fewer and fewer Americans are doing that, according to recent studies. Even though one in three Americans say they are chronically overworked, many employees aren't taking the paid vacations they have earned. A 2007 survey by the recruiting firm Hudson reported that 56% of employees do not use all of their vacation time. And, of those who do take their vacations, many continue working while they're away.

But when you truly get away from work—by changing your environment and shutting down for extended periods—you return to work less overwhelmed and more energized to meet your responsibilities. In fact, in a study conducted on behalf of Air New Zealand, 82% of vacationers experienced a boost in their work performance after returning from a vacation.



The growing of herbaceous plants from seed is by no means as widely practiced as the growing of bedding plants or even alpine plants from seed. This is largely because most herbaceous plants are selected forms that require vegetative methods of propagation. However, there are many herbaceous plants, such as delphiniums and lupines, that can be grown successfully from seed.

Most hardy herbaceous plants, and especially those that disperse their seeds in the late summer and autumn, will produce seeds that require a period of exposure to the cold to break their dormancy. Their seed is sown in autumn or winter in containers that are then left outdoors: germination should occur in the spring.

Those plants that disperse their seeds in summer, after an early spring flowering, often do not show any dormancy conditions, especially if they are collected and sown slightly green. This kind of plant will then germinate quickly and establish a seedling before the onset of winter.

Some herbaceous plants, and particularly members of the legume family, such as lupines, produce seed with a hard seed coat. This prevents the seed germinating until it decomposes sufficiently to allow the seed to take up water. To speed up germination, chip the seed coat with a single-edged razor blade

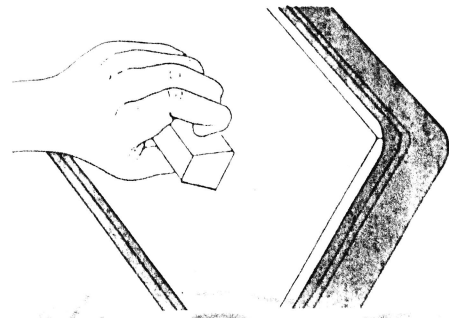
so that water can get in; alternatively, rub the seeds with a coarse emery paper or similar abrasive until the seed coat is sufficiently reduced to allow water uptake.

Some herbaceous plants such as some lilies and peonies exhibit an unusual dormancy condition that delays seedling emergence. If the seeds are sown in the winter spring period, the seeds germinate as the temperature warms up, but only a root system emerges. Exposure to a further winter's cold is necessary for the stem to develop. Therefore it is not until the second spring that the seedlings appear. For these plants failure should not be accepted until after the second spring; do not be tempted to throw them out if germination does not occur in the first season.

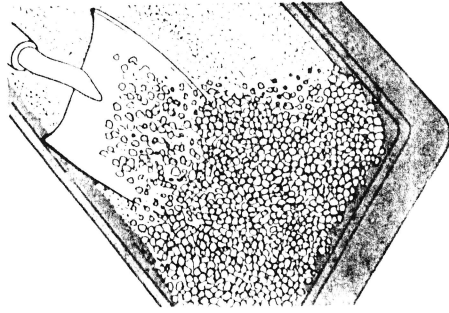
Sowing herbaceous seeds

Seeds should be sown in pans (dwarf pots) or seed trays, depending on the quantity of seed available. If the seeds are slow to germinate, fill the container with a loam-based compost, which will maintain its structure over a long period despite being exposed to natural weather conditions. Peat-based compost will suffice for seeds sown in spring.

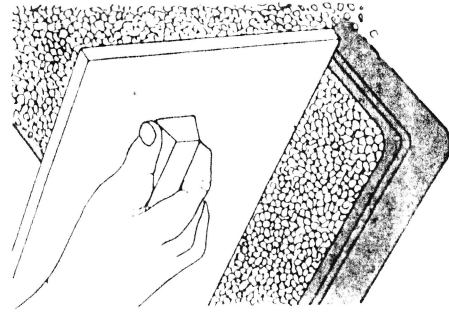
Firm the compost to the corners and the base of container; then strike off the compost.



4 Firm the seeds gently into the compost with a presser board.

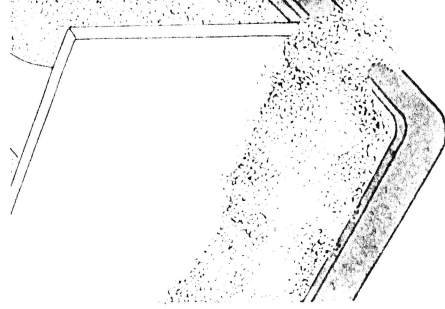


5 Cover seeds with grit or sieved compost, according to their requirements.

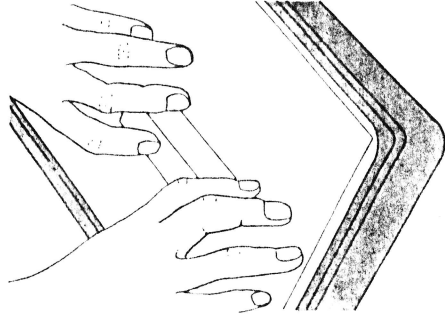


6 Strike off grit until it is level with the rim of the container.

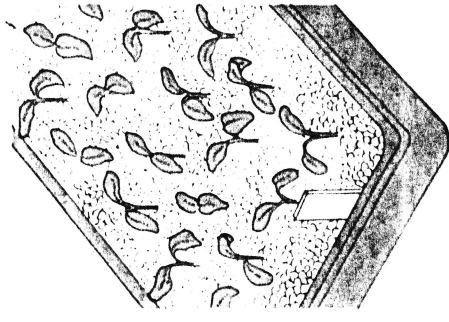
With a presser board, firm the compost to $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ in below the rim. If seeds are large, individually sow at recommended spacing. Otherwise, broadcast sow the seeds. After sowing, firm them into contact with the compost; then cover with grit if they are to stand out for the winter, or with sifted compost if germination will occur quickly. Label the container and water in the seeds. Stand out on any well-drained surface, if the seeds need



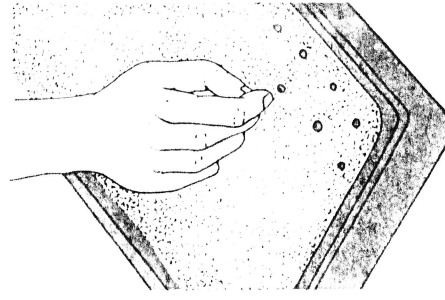
1 Heap some compost into a container. Firm gently; then strike off level with rim.



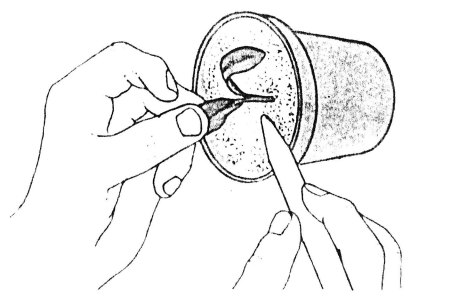
2 Firm compost to within $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ in of rim using a presser board.



8 Apply fungicide to emerging seedlings at regular intervals.



3 Sow large seeds one at a time. Broadcast small seeds.



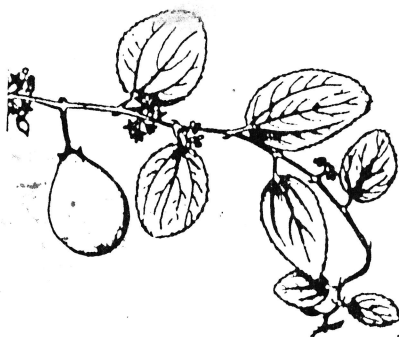
9 Prick out seedlings into individual pots once they can be handled.

chilling. Otherwise place container in a war (21°C/70°F) environment.

Seedlings of herbaceous plants are susceptible to the various damping-off diseases. It is therefore important to water the emerging seedlings at regular intervals with a dilute solution of Captan or a copper fungicide.

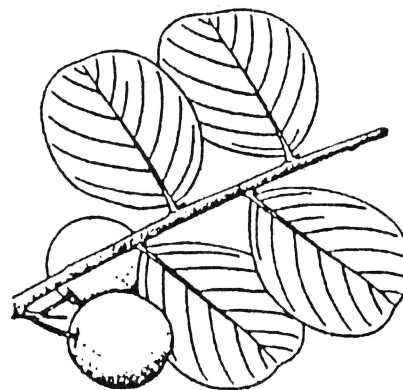
As soon as herbaceous plant seedlings are large enough to handle, prick off into individual pots.

A GUIDE TO TROPICAL FRUIT TREES & VINES continued...

157. *Zizyphus mauritiana* - Indian jujube

Evergreen tree to 25 feet, native to India. Branches have numerous spines. Light green leaves are about 3 inches in length and light green in color. Branches with drooping effect. Small whitish-green flowers produce round fruits that are orange-brown when mature and about 1 inch in diameter. White pulp is eaten fresh, dried, stewed, candied or preserved. Propagation is by seed, cuttings and grafting.

FAMILY - ROSACEAE

158. *Chrysobalanus icaco* - Coco palm

Evergreen shrub or small tree to 30 feet, native to South Florida and the West Indies. Thick, roundish leaves about 3 inches across. Whitish flowers about 1/4 inch long. Fruit varies in color - sometimes yellow, pink, red or black. The cotton-candy pulp is eaten fresh. The seed can also be eaten fresh or roasted. Plants are started by seed.



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