



RFCI

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2009

TAMPA BAY CHAPTER of the

RARE FRUIT COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL INC

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WEBSITE: www.rarefruit.org (CHARLES NOVAK)

MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2nd SUNDAY OF THE MONTH @ 2:00 PM
@ THE TAMPA GARDEN CLUB, 2629 BAYSHORE BLVD, TAMPA

NEXT MEETING: MAY 10 @ 2:00 PM

PROGRAM: THIS MONTH AS USUAL ON MOTHERS' DAY, OUR SPEAKER WILL BE OUR GOOD FRIEND FROM PALM BEACH COUNTY, GENE JOINER. Gene's visits to our meetings are always enjoyed by our members, as he is a knowledgeable authority on tropical fruiting trees. At this meeting he will be discussing the best fruiting trees for growing in central Florida. He will also be available to answer questions and identify plants if you have questions that need answers or plants that need identifying. In addition, we will have our fabulous dining table and interesting plant raffle. Please contribute. Also our farmers market will be open to those who are selling fruit, vegetables or preserves. It should be an exceptionally interesting meeting so we expect to see a large crowd, even though it is Mothers' Day, and we suggest that members might bring their mothers.

For the benefit of new members, directions to our meeting are on page 09-30.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Apr-May 2009

By PAUL ZMODA

Lots of work to do at Flatwoods Fruit Farm since the freezes; I'm always watching for renewed growth on damaged trees. When they do resprout, I know where to make my cuts to remove the dead wood. Most white sapotes just needed a cleanup pruning to remove lifeless branches. The "Denzler" variety, however, froze to below the graft union. I've selected 2 strong shoots coming back from the stump to regraft later with a more hardy cultivar.

The multi grafted mango has a nice set of fruit, thanks to covers and a heater during the worst cold spells. Its second round of flowers should provide a great additional crop.

Our large "Guthrie" plum is holding a huge number of new fruit. Since this hybrid variety is not self-fertile, it's fruit set is most likely due to the fact that it's adjacent daughter, seedling, tree bloomed at the precise same time. If this daughter (or F1) tree proves to be reliable as a pollinizer, then it will require double plantings in the future to take advantage of this symbiosis, as Guthrie's fruit is attractive, juicy & sweet – a real spring time treat.

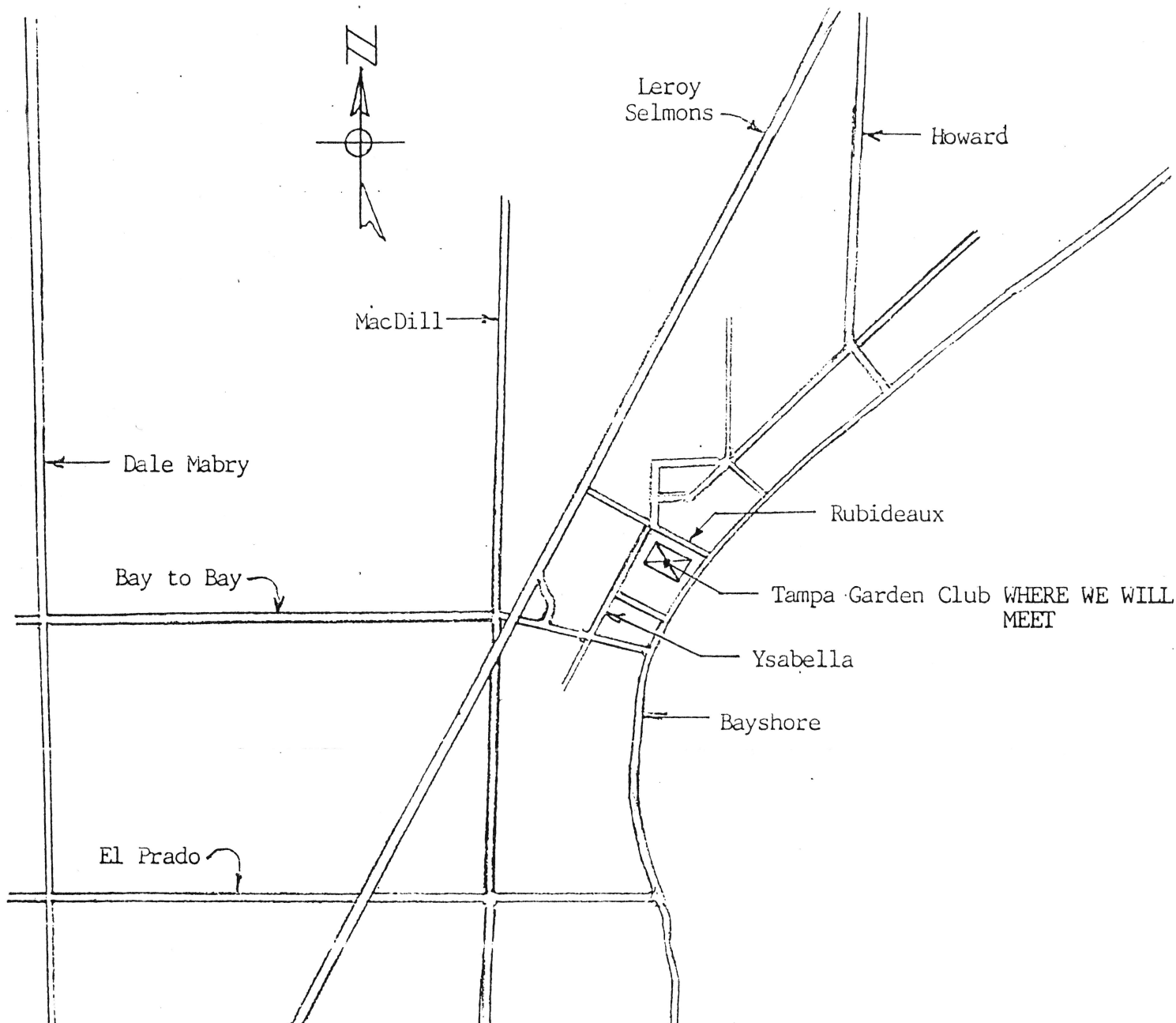
Our large pommelo "Pink Sensation" is finally blooming well and setting those bell shaped, pink fleshed citrus giants.

All bananas have been trimmed of freeze-killed tissue and mulched heavily.

The potted "Arbequina" olive is once again setting a nice crop.

A Russian persimmon, "Rosseyanka", is flowering for the first time.

New plantings: canistel, pole beans, red okra, cow peas & wild plum seeds in tap root pots.



Directions to the Tampa Garden Club: 2629 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa

FROM NORTHEAST:

Take I-275 to Armenia Ave / Howard Ave exit (Exit 42).
 Take Armenia south to West Swann Ave (1.2 miles).
 Turn Left (east) on W. Swann Ave. Go 0.1 mile to first light (South Howard Ave).
 Turn Right (south) on S. Howard, go 0.8 mile to Bayshore Blvd.
 Turn Right (west) on Bayshore Blvd. Go 0.4 mile to the Tampa Garden Club.
 Parking is in the rear. PARKING DIRECTIONS: Turn Right (north) on West Rubideaux St., go one block to Ysabella Ave. Turn Left (west) on Ysabella. Enter parking lot at the second gate on Left side of street.

FROM NORTHWEST OR SOUTH:

Take Dale Mabry or MacDill, turn East on Bay to Bay Blvd.
 Pass under Leroy Selmon Expressway.
 Turn Left (North) on Ysabella.
 Enter Tampa Garden Club after Barcelona, before Rubideaux St.

Celebrate Arbor Day – Plant a Tree

For many of us, April is synonymous with the coming of spring ("April showers bring May flowers"), allergy season, the much-touted and now mostly commercialized Earth Day and the nearly forgotten, "original" Earth Day – Arbor Day.

The first Arbor Day was celebrated on April 10, 1872 in Nebraska. The idea of a "tree-planting holiday" was first proposed by journalist and Michigan native, Julius Sterling Morton, who was distressed by the lack of trees in his adopted "plains state" of Nebraska. Prizes were offered to the county and individuals who planted the largest number of trees. It is estimated that more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on that first Arbor Day. By 1885, Arbor Day was proclaimed a legal holiday in Nebraska. April 22nd, Morton's birthday, was chosen as the date.



That year, the tradition of involving school children began. In Nebraska City, students gathered at their schools and each class was tasked with planting at least one tree. Each tree was labeled with the grade and the time planted so that students could continue caring for their trees. When the plantings were completed, the students, teachers and townspeople marched to the opera house to hear Julius Morton speak.

Though it was the first celebration of its kind in the United States, Arbor Day was probably first celebrated in Israel. According to Wikipedia, "The first celebration of Arbor Day can be traced to Judaism and the celebration of Tu Bishvat, which generally falls on the second or third full moon before Passover. Today, Tu Bishvat is considered the Jewish Arbor Day. Ecological organizations in Israel have adopted it to further environmental awareness programs. On Israeli kibbutzim, Tu Bishvat is celebrated as an agricultural holiday."



“Each generation takes the earth as trustees.”

— J. Sterling Morton

Today, all 50 states and over 80 countries around the world celebrate Arbor Day in one form or another. While many observe Arbor Day as the last Friday in April, a number of states celebrate Arbor Day at a time that coincides with the best local tree planting weather, for example, from January to February in the South and May in the far North.

Trees and You...

- "The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to 10 room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day." — *U.S. Department of Agriculture*
- "If you plant a tree today on the west side of your home, in 5 years, your energy bills should be 3% less. In 15 years, the savings will be nearly 12%." — *Dr. E. Greg McPherson, Center for Urban Forest Research*
- "In laboratory research, visual exposure to settings with trees has produced significant recovery from stress within five minutes, as indicated by changes in blood pressure and muscle tension." — *Dr. Roger S. Ulrich Texas A&M University*
- If a man walks in the woods for love of them half of each day, he is in danger of being regarded as a loafer. But if he spends his days as a speculator, shearing off those woods and making the earth bald before her time, he is deemed an industrious and enterprising citizen. — *Henry David Thoreau*

I was really surprised to see so many members show up to help at the plant sale, being it was Easter. I want to thank all the members who helped out for giving up your Easter weekend.

May 10 is our next meeting. I am asking all members who have any extra plants laying around to bring one or two to the meeting. Our plant exchange and raffle could use a little help. Remember, you can also participate in the farmers market. At the farmers market next to my house, they sell plants, fruits & vegetables. All members can do the same at ours. See you all at the meeting.

Paul Branesky

Speakers/Events:

May 10: Speaker: Gene Joyner of Unbelievable Acres in W. Palm Beach.
Topic: "Best Fruiting Plants for Central Florida"

July 25: Picnic at Kiwanis Island Park Community Center on Merritt Island

July 25, 11AM to 4 PM: Picnic at Kiwanis Island Park Community Center on Merritt Island. The club has been invited to join the members of the Brevard RFCI for an afternoon of meeting and socializing with members from other tropical and rarefruit societies within the state. There will also be a tour of Toppi Feil's property on Merritt Island. Our club is planning to charter a bus for this event. The bus will accommodate 50 club members and each member will be asked to pay \$10 per seat. For more information and/or you would like to join us on the bus please contact Sally Lee at 982-9359. Also, a signup sheet will be available at the May 10 meeting. Members may drive themselves to this event but must advise Sally as the Brevard Chapter needs an approximate number of attending guests from our Chapter.

During the past several years the Brevard RFCI, Orlando Tropical Fruit Club, Tampa RFCI and Manatee RFCI have hosted joint meetings, picnics/lunches and fruit tastings. We feel it's important and beneficial for the clubs to come together so members can share information and fellowship.

USF Botanical Garden Plant Festival: *Thanks* to all the members who spent all or part of the Easter weekend helping with this event. The weather was perfect and we were very busy all day Saturday. By 3 PM Sunday there very few fruiting plants left. 588 cups of fruit juice were served to the public.

A Friend

The exotic fruit world has lost a true friend and an authority on propagation and distribution of rare fruiting trees. On Wednesday, April 22, Bob Murray passed away. He and his lifelong partner, wife Vivian Murray, grew the nursery on Pine Island in Ft. Myers, which is devoted to the propagation and distribution of exotic fruiting plants. We who have known him for so many years, who have grown fruiting trees from his nursery and who have spent many hours discussing the joy of owning and growing these delectable trees, will miss him as a friend and a partner in the growth of our hobby or industry. We should all say a prayer for that man who has devoted his life to our enjoyment and pleasure. May you rest in peace, Bob Murray.

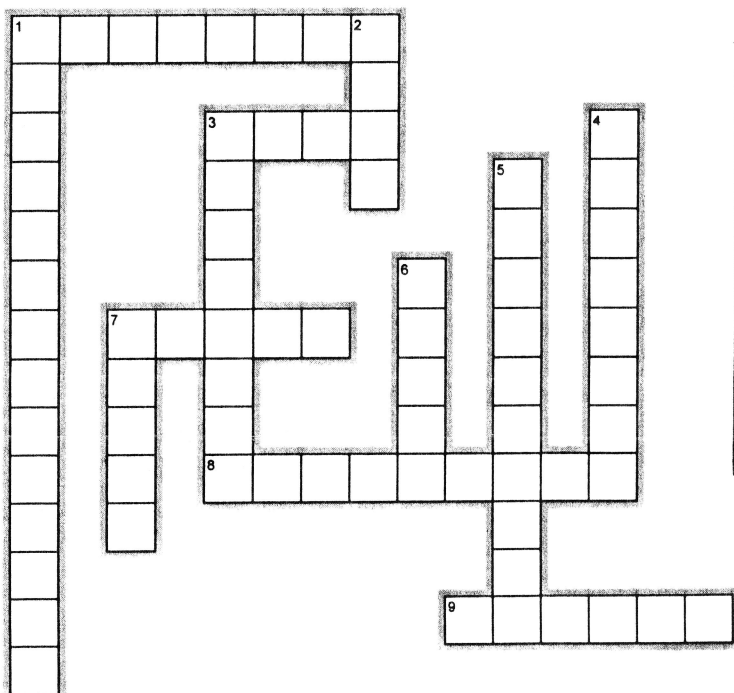
Our Club is holding a Crossword Puzzle Contest. The winner will receive a free plant at the May meeting! You will find the puzzle here in this issue. This puzzle is based on Bob Paulish's talk to our members at the January meeting and the article can be found in the February newsletter.

To enter the contest, mail your completed entry to our Treasurer, Susan McAveety at 8621 Foxtail Court, Tampa, 33647.

The winner will be determined by a random drawing of all correct entries received no later than **Sat., May 9th** at the above address. Only one entry per membership.

Growing Grapes in Central Florida by Bob Paulish

Susan McAveety



EclipseCrossword.com

As a Result of a Powerful Antioxidant
in a Rare Red Fruit Called *Goji*
My Family is Experiencing

GoChi

- Improvement in The Immune System
- Increased Energy Level
- Less Stress
- Better Health

For a free sample taste call Maria Theryo
727 - 724 - 1939
www.HimalayanRedBerry.FreeLife.com

Across

1. If soil is not tested, this is the type of fertilizer Bob recommends.
3. Beverage made from grapes.
7. Approximate number of Muscadine varieties being developed by FL industry and colleges
8. Muscadines are native to this region of the country.
9. Muscadines can be cultivated overhead in these.

Down

1. Color of some Muscadines when ripe.
2. New vines should be planted this way.
3. Facilities that use a lot of Muscadines.
4. Horizontal wires on which grapes grow are oriented North and South to provide this.
5. Male vines do not require this.
6. Description of Muscadines' skin.
7. Year in which production usually begins for Bob.



Celebrate Arbor Day ... Plant a Fruit Tree



The Value of Organic Matter

Organic matter is the most important material we can add to the sandy soils common in Florida. A good soil in the mid section of our country can contain more than 5% organic matter while our sandy soils often have less than 1% organic matter.

Organic matter or humus in our soils has a tendency to bind loose sandy soils while it will make stiff clay soils more open and porous. Organic matter increases the water holding capacity of sands. It also makes the soil into a more favorable environment for the growth of plant roots and for the growth of beneficial soil microorganisms. , it often supplies certain catalytic agents and growth substances beneficial for plant growth.

Decomposing organic matter renders inorganic elements from our fertilizers more readily available to plants and thus increases soil fertility and the availability of essential elements such as iron, zinc, manganese and others.

Organic matter and clay greatly improve the buffering ability of the soil and thus makes it less likely to damage our plants by the excessive use of artificial fertilizers or by the inadvertent addition of some toxic material to the soil.

On an equal weight basis, humus far exceeds clay in its ability to combine and hold exchangeable bases. Since organic colloids are extremely active, an increase of 1% of organic matter can double the exchange capacity of a soil. The base exchange capacity of a soil is the ability of a soil to absorb and retain a group of elements such as calcium, magnesium, potassium, copper and zinc.. These are known as exchangeable bases.

Organic matter decomposes rapidly and completely in Florida soils. Therefore, we must continually add organic matter to our soils.

Another value of organic matter is that vegetables, flowers, fruit, and landscape plants growing in soils that are high inorganic matter or that are covered with a heavy permanent mulch are less damaged by nematodes than are those growing in soils of low organic content.

Organic matter in the soil seems to contribute to the reduction of nematodes in several ways. Decomposing organic matter causes a great increase of soil microbes, fungi, bacteria, and actinomycetes. These are followed by a great number of organisms that feed upon them, including many predatory nematodes, mites, insects and fungi that capture and feed upon parasitic nematodes.

Also the decomposition of some organic materials and green manures have been shown to generate other chemicals that are directly toxic to nematodes and thus decrease their numbers.



CLUB COOKBOOK: We need your favorite tropical fruit recipes for the cookbook which will be published in the next few months. Please mail your favorite recipes to Verna Dickey, 2114 Fairfield Ave., Brandon, FL 33510, or give your recipes to Sally Lee or Linda Novak at the May meeting.

The propagation of trees and shrubs from seed is rewarding as it allows the gardener to practice a wide range of techniques that, if successful, produce something that has a long-lasting place in the garden or landscape. Although it is possible to purchase some tree and shrub seeds, these are limited to those kinds that can be successfully dried, so in most cases it is necessary for the gardener to collect his own seeds.

It is important to emphasize that the seeds used for propagation will only produce the kind of offspring that their heredity warrants. Seeds collected from species will probably come true; if collected from selected varieties then the seedlings will normally be of the species, unless of hybrid origin (see page 20). For this reason all fruit trees, which are highly specialized forms, should not be propagated by seed but must be increased vegetatively.

The chief problem associated with tree and shrub seeds is the presence of various kinds of dormancy, which in the extreme are sometimes combined and so present particular difficulties in getting the seeds to germinate.

Tree and shrub seeds are extraordinarily diverse in their shape and size—varying from the fine dustlike seeds of rhododendron to the large nutlike seeds of the horse chestnut or the oak, from the flat disks of wisteria to the hairy “parachutes” of clematis. All these considerations have a bearing on an individual plant's ability to survive and germinate: large seeds with a large embryo should have a much greater chance of successfully germinating than small seeds, as they have a larger food reserve, and therefore more small seeds than large seeds need to be collected.

Also affecting the quantity of seed to be collected will be the availability of seed from year to year. If this can be noted on a regular basis, it may give a guide for any storage requirements. Beech is an extreme example as it is reputed to produce good seed only once in “seven years”; other plants also have definite periodic responses.

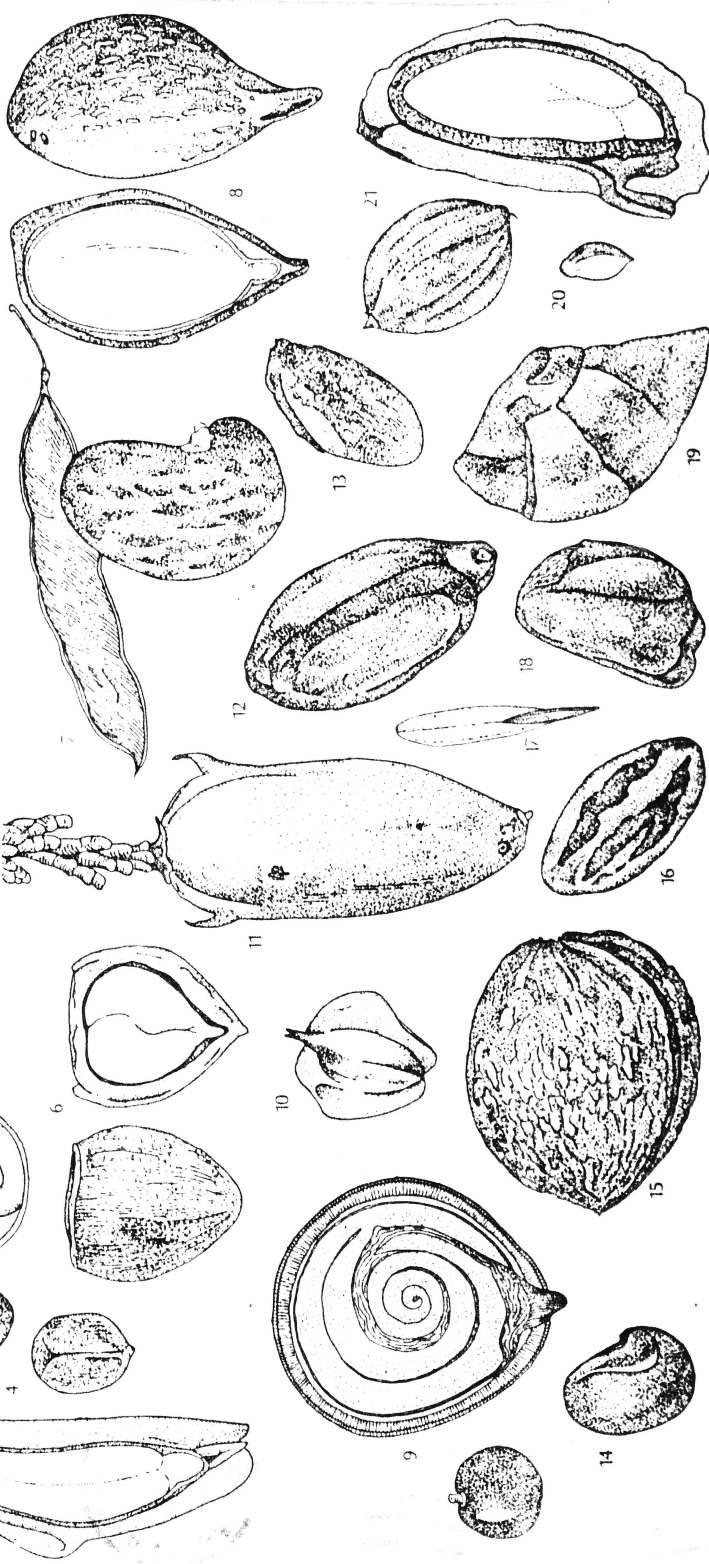
The gardener can either purchase his tree and shrub seeds from a reliable seedsman or he can visit gardens, parks and arboreta in the hope of coming upon some unusual tree

or shrub producing a crop of seeds. Gardeners are usually very generous with their plants, and, if asked, will frequently be only too willing to give some seeds or cuttings.

Dormancy

If a seed is subjected to the conditions required for germination and it fails to germinate, despite the fact that it is alive, then the seed is described as being dormant.

Seed dispersed in the late summer or autumn, without an inbuilt dormancy control would normally germinate. The seedlings would then have to survive unfavorable climatic conditions that more often than not would kill it. The plant has, therefore, developed a control mechanism that prevents the seed germinating until the onset of favorable conditions for germination and subsequent establishment. Although these controls benefit the plant and enhance the chances of successful seedling production, they present a very real problem to the gardener, who either has to wait for the dormancy to be broken naturally, which can



The seeds illustrated on pages 28–9 are as follows:

- 1 *Salix* sp.; 2 *Juniperus deppeana*; 3 *Caragana arborescens*; 4 *Gleditsia* x *texana*; 5 *Cotoneaster horizontalis*; 6 *Corylus cornuta* var. *californica*; 7 *Robinia pseudoacacia*; 8 *Pyrus communis*; 9 *Koeleruteria paniculata*; 10 *Alnus sinuata*; 11 *Calocedrus decurrens*; 12 *Mahonia aquifolium*; 13 *Morus alba* l. *italica*; 14 *Laburnum anagyroides*; 15 *Prunus armeniaca*; 16 *Ilex aquifolium*; 17 *Fraxinus americana*; 18 *Yucca elata*; 19 *Eucalyptus laetigata*; 20 *Populus tremontii* var. *tremontii*; 21 *Crataegus* sp.; 22 *Carpinus caroliniana*; 23 *Acacia melanoxylon*; 24 *Euonymus alatus*; 25 *Malus floribunda*; 26 *Malus baccata*; 27 *Ulmus parvifolia*; 28 *Cedrus libani*; 29 *Clematis virginiana*; 30 *Cytisus scoparius*; 31 *Viburnum alnifolium*; 32 *Taxus baccata*; 33 *Juglans cinerea*; 34 *Aesculus hippocastanum*; 35 *Rosa eglanteria*; 36 *Ceanothus americanus*; 37 *Catalpa speciosa*; 38 *Cornus racemosa*.

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

160. *Eriobotrya japonica* - Loquat, Japanese plum



Cold hardy, evergreen tree to 25 feet, native to China. Large hairy leaves to 12 inches in length. Fragrant white flowers are produced in terminal panicles. Its pale yellow to orange fruits are pear-shaped and up to 1-1/2 inches long. Each fruit usually contains 2 large brown seeds. The fruit is eaten fresh, or for jellies, pies and preserves. Propagation is by seed and grafting. New plants often develop from fruit that drops to the ground.

Tribute to Motherhood

By and large, mothers and housewives are the only workers who do not have regular time off. They are the great vacationless class. - Anne Morrow Lindbergh

Youth fades; love droops; the leaves of friendship fall; a mother's secret hope outlives them all. - Oliver Wendell Holmes

The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother. - Unknown

The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom. - Henry Ward Beecher

I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life. - Abraham Lincoln

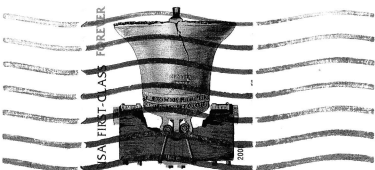
The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness. - Honore' de Balzac



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