



RFCI

<http://www.rarefruit.org>

January 2011

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

Meetings are held the second Sunday, 2:00 P.M.
at the Tampa Garden Club, 2629 Bayshore Blvd.

∞ Upcoming Programs and Events ∞

January 9: Dr. Geoff Denny, University of Florida/IFAS, will speak on soil.

February 10-21: RFCI Horticultural display at the Florida State Fair.

February 13: Citrus Celebration at the Florida State Fair.

∞ *Calling All Volunteers!* ∞

We need your help during the month of February. February is a big month for our Club and for the Tampa Bay area because we welcome the Florida State Fair. We are hosting the following events:

∞ RFCI Florida State Fair Exhibit ∞

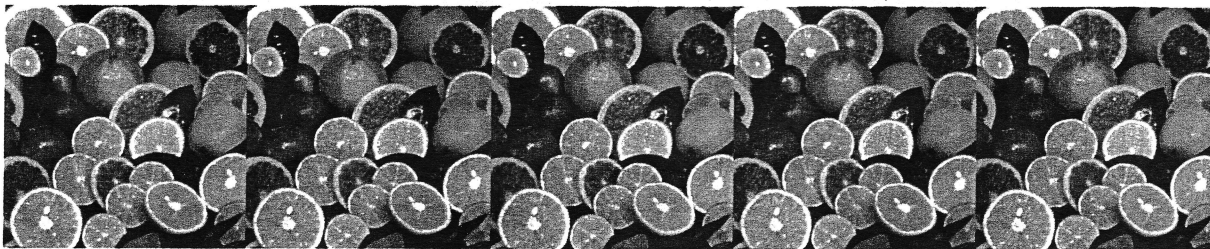
We need volunteers to man this year's display at the Florida State Fair. In turn, you will receive admission tickets to the Fair. We will have a volunteer sign-up sheet at the January 9th meeting, or you can contact Charles Novak at (813) 754-1399 to volunteer.

∞ Citrus Celebration at the Florida State Fair ∞

On Sunday, February 13th, we will be hosting our 10th event. This event has been very popular with the public because it gives them the opportunity to sample many varieties of citrus. Please plan to help.

This year, it is critical for members to *donate citrus fruit* (as many varieties as possible). Our main sources for fruit in the past are no longer available. If you have citrus to donate (or know of someone who will donate fruit), please contact Bob Heath (813) 289-1068, Charles Novak (813) 754-1399, Jimmy and Sally Lee (813) 982-9359, or any Board member.

We also need volunteers to help prepare the fruit for sampling. A signup sheet will be available at the January 9th meeting, or you may contact one of the members listed in the above paragraph. There also will be more information in the February newsletter.



For more on the Florida State Fair, refer to <http://floridastatefair.com/state-fair>

President: Paul Branesky

Editor: Gloria Sciuto; **Production & Distribution:** Charles and Linda Novak

∞ Prayers Farm Nigeria ∞

One of our new members, Dominic Ukpe, is teaching the people of Nigeria to raise healthful food for themselves and their families through aquaculture and agriculture-fish and vegetable production. Dominic came to the United States from Nigeria 27 years ago. He is now a U.S. citizen. For more information on this program, visit <http://www.prayersfarm.org/>

∞ What's Happening ∞ by Paul Zmoda

Our recent grafting workshop was a great success. We shared our knowledge about the hows and whys of what I refer to as "making trees."

As you watched and learned, there is no one particular way to make a new tree. Many types of grafting techniques may be used.

I'd like to revisit grafting as mentioned in one of our long past newsletters. I had coined a new term: "Parking," that I'd like to see included in the lexicon of horticultural propagation. Let's say, for example, you are on a trip and collect budwood of a fruit tree which interests you. You just have to have it in your collection but you realize that you possess no rootstocks onto which to graft it. You do, however, have a related tree onto which you can topwork or "park" it until such time that you can harvest scions for grafting onto available rootstocks. Even though many years may pass, you have a ready source of living tissue "parked" there for making new trees.

Years ago, I received scions of the delightful Centennial kumquat. I had to park the buds on my red navel orange tree. Two years later, I had suitable rootstock seedlings. (I prefer pommelo for my often soggy citrus orchard.) The kumquat was grafted using the ever reliable inverted "T" method. I now have a crop of the variegated Centennials ripening on a new tree, thanks to parking.

New plantings: Lettuce, assorted winter salad greens, daikon radishes, dill, fennel, Swiss chard.

∞ December's Tasting Table ∞

A special "Thank You!" to all the folks who brought food to our tastefully delicious and bountiful Holiday celebration.





11-05

∞ Environmentally Sound New Year's Resolutions ∞

by Dr. Leonard Perry, University of Vermont Extension Professor

Have you made your New Year's resolutions yet? If you are like most people, you've probably resolved to lose a few pounds or exercise a bit more or perhaps even cut back on your spending. But this is a good time to resolve to do your part to help protect the environment.

Here are 12 resolutions for the coming year:

1. To recycle cardboard, cans, and compostable materials.
2. To start a compost pile for grass clippings, dead leaves, plant residues, and other organic matter, including kitchen scraps to be used as compost and mulch to enrich the soil and improve plant growth.
3. To use biological controls for pests and disease in the garden whenever feasible, including planting disease-resistant varieties and buying organic pesticides.
4. To apply pesticides and other horticultural chemicals only as a last resort and to always use them safely and prudently.
5. To store all garden chemicals in their original containers, out of reach of children and pets, and preferably in a locked storage area.
6. To use fertilizers only as needed, according to soil tests, and use organic forms whenever possible.
7. To mow properly (often, not too high or low), and leave grass clippings to replenish and recycle organic matter and nutrients back into the soil.
8. To make water conservation a high priority by mulching, using efficient watering methods, such as drip irrigation systems, and selecting drought-resistant ornamental plants.
9. To develop a landscape plan, for example, ground covers on steep banks to prevent soil erosion and shade trees on the sunny side of a home to act as a natural air conditioner. Landscaping also can help reduce temperature extremes, filter out air pollutants, and stop noise.
10. To create natural wildlife habitats by planting trees and shrubs that provide food or cover and by leaving brush and undergrowth for birds, rabbits, and other small animals to use as a protective haven.
11. To provide food and water for the birds and to continue to feed them once they have come to depend on you.
12. To encourage others to do all they can to help preserve the environment and our natural resources.

⌘ A Drought Continues for This Winter ⌘

Every place in the world has a typical climate – a predictable seasonal pattern of rainfall and temperatures. Weather is highly variable day-to-day and deals with only short term timelines (a cold, rainy day during a hot, dry summer) and small geographical areas. Over time, the “average” weather paints a picture of an area’s climate. Like weather, climate can also vary. Some years may be wetter than others, some cooler. The strongest cause of year-to-year climate variations around the world is called the El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon.

El Niño

During El Niño years, the surface of the equatorial Pacific Ocean becomes warmer. The warm seas cause the air to be warmer as well. The warm air pulls in and holds more moisture, which increases the amount of rainfall and thunderstorms. El Niño also affects the trade winds by causing them to decrease or even reverse.

La Niña

La Niña years are characterized by lower than normal sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific. This strengthens the trade winds, which brings up more cold water from the ocean floor (“upwellings” that occur on the west coasts of North and South America). The cool water also cools and dries the air, decreasing cloud cover and rainfall in the area.

The Southeast

ENSO phases can have substantial influence over the Southeast’s climate and weather. The strongest effects of ENSO occur in the winter months between October and April. El Niño often causes a wetter and cooler than normal season, while La Niña will cause a warmer and drier season (although La Niña phases have been observed to start off with a period of cooler than average weather).

The National Weather Service has predicted that a current La Niña phase (as of October 2010) will last into the spring of 2011 in the Northern Hemisphere. Sea surface temperatures in the Pacific are currently 1.4 degrees Celsius cooler than normal. A strong La Niña (temperatures averaging 1.5 degrees Celsius cooler than normal) is predicted from November to January of this winter.

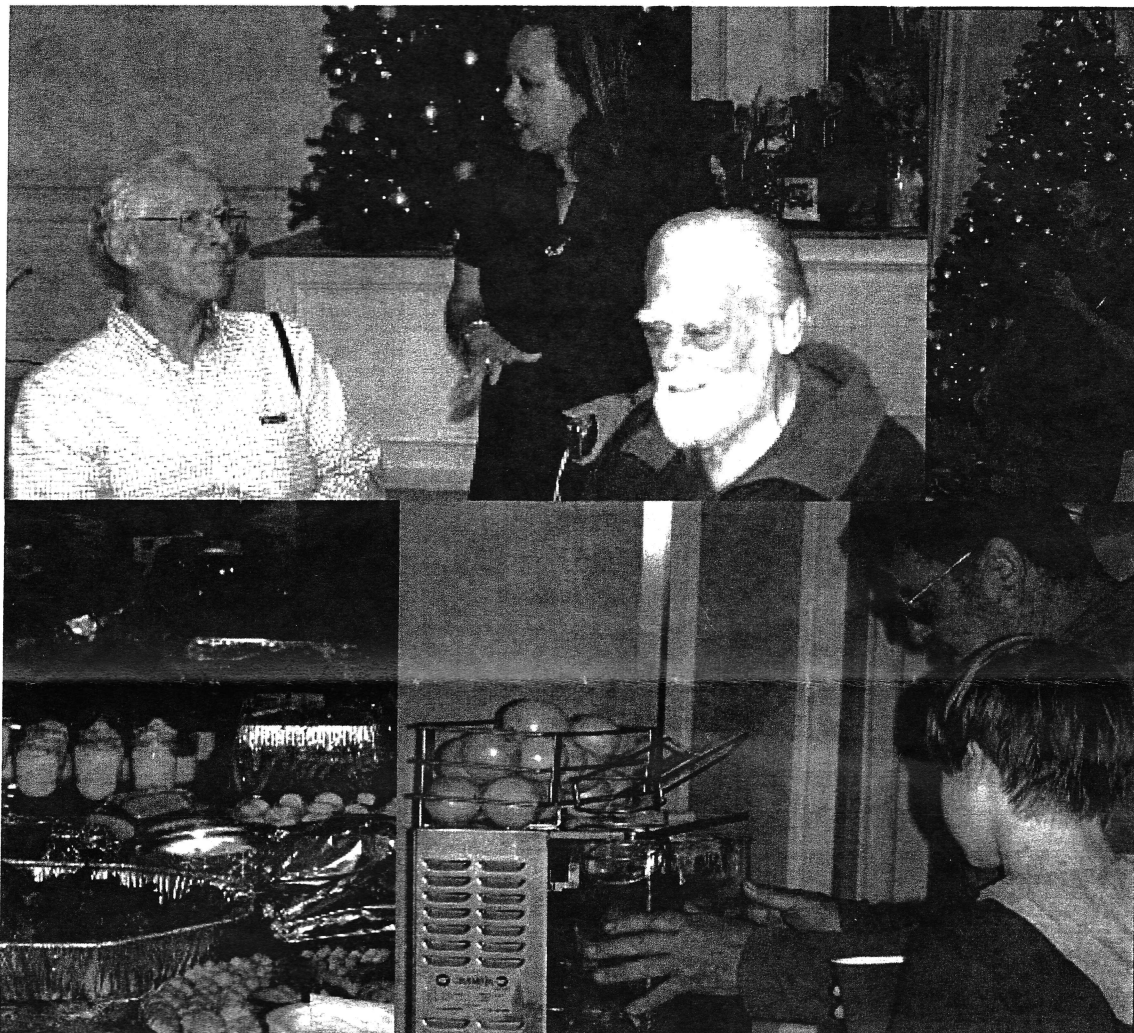
Southeast Climate Consortium’s (SECC) Outlook

According to the SECC, a drought is setting in for much of the Southeast. After a summer that can be characterized as one of the hottest on record, drought has begun to develop over much of the Southeast, with the exception of the Florida peninsula. The three-month period of May to July ranked as the hottest on record (since 1895) for much of the Southeast. Florida ranked it as the second hottest on record. Rainfall was generally below normal, but was characterized as being more scattered or localized than in previous years.

Large differences in daily, weekly, and monthly rainfall totals were seen not only from county to county (which is somewhat typical for summer rainfall), but also from field to field. Southeast Alabama and

❧ Holiday Party December 2010 Meeting ❧

Best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year from your RFCI Board of Officers and Editorial Staff! We look forward to seeing you at our 2011 meetings and social events.



❧ In Memory of Ray Thorndike ❧

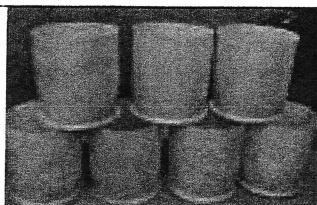
Ray passed away June 4, 2010, at the age of 79. He attended the 2nd club meeting (Jan. 14, 1979) and was active in the organization of the Tampa Bay Chapter RFCI. He was Editor of the newsletter and Program Chairman during the early 1980s. He was a fruit tree enthusiast, wrote articles about his yard planting in Lakeland and helped publish the 1982 Central Florida Fruit List-unique because the list was broken into cold hardiness categories.

❧ RFCI Plant Exchange ❧

Thanks to all of our donors. Members who donate plant(s) may now receive a ticket for the raffle.

Plant	Donor	Winner
Carambola basket	Bob Heath	---
Curry leaf	Bob Heath	---
Rosemary and passion fruit	Bob Heath	---
2 pineapple	Bob Heath	---
Loquat	Bob Heath	---
3 Orangeberry	Charles Novak	---
Dwarf Barbados cherry	Charles Novak	---
Orange mangasteen	Charles Novak	---
White sapote	Charles Novak	---
Guava	Charles Novak	---
2 Tropical guava	Charles Novak	---
2 Raspberry	Charles Novak	---
3 Cherry of the Rio Grande	Thom Scott	---
Window box	Thom Scott	---
Patio box	Thom Scott	---
Hummingbird feeder	Thom Scott	---
Pink tangelos	Paul Zmoda	---
Cactus with fruit	Ed Musgrove	---
Surinam cherry	Rashan Premraj	---
4 Yellow guava	Michal Nizan	---
Black sapote	Tony Ferreira	---
Pot	C. O'Neill	---
Dianthus	Julie Badias	---
Aslym	Julie Badias	---

❧ Members' Corner ❧



GOT BARRELS?

Charles Novak is looking for 20 half barrels (plastic, 55-gallon size). You can contact Charles at (813) 754-1399 or e-mail him at: charles.novak@gmail.com

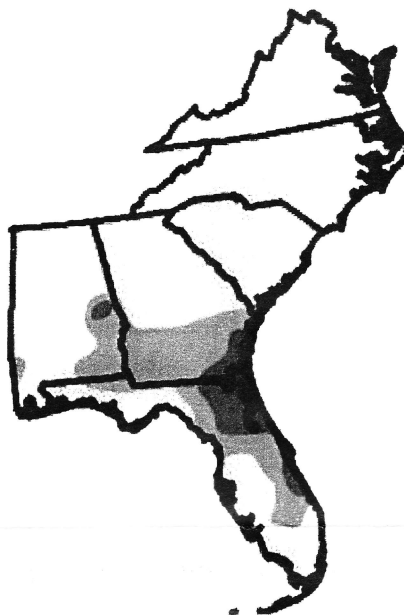
inland areas of the Florida Panhandle are feeling the drought most strongly since most fields in this area are non-irrigated and row crops and pastures are suffering. The extent of drought conditions is shown in the current U.S. Drought Monitor, where most of the Southeast is depicted as being in drought conditions ranging from abnormally dry to severe.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Southeast

December 21, 2010
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	23.97	76.03	50.47	21.40	5.85	0.00
Last Week (12/14/2010 map)	22.36	77.64	50.28	19.91	5.45	0.00
3 Months Ago (09/21/2010 map)	14.35	85.65	47.44	11.74	0.90	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/29/2009 map)	99.39	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/28/2010 map)	18.18	81.82	38.04	10.32	0.90	0.00
One Year Ago (12/15/2009 map)	97.19	2.81	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.00



Intensity:

D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Drought - Extreme
D1 Drought - Moderate	D4 Drought - Exceptional
D2 Drought - Severe	

Copied from http://agroclimate.org/forecasts/current_climate_outlook.php

Centers around the world that run El Niño/La Niña prediction models are in overwhelming agreement on a strengthening and long-lasting La Niña. In fact, chances are good that the current La Niña will develop into one of the stronger events in the last 60 years.

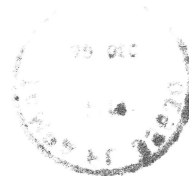
∞ University of Florida FruitScapes Website ∞

FruitScapes

The source for information on temperate, subtropical, and tropical fruit crops in the Florida landscape.

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
IFAS Extension

Learn all about tropical fruit and more at this fascinating website that also includes informative videos:
<http://trec.ifas.ufl.edu/fruitscapes/>



❧ Winter Fruit Salad ❧

Ingredients	Directions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/2 cup sugar • 1 1-inch piece ginger, peeled and thinly sliced • 1 vanilla bean, split lengthwise and seeds scraped out • 1 lemon • 5 large navel or blood oranges • 2 mangoes, peeled and diced • 2 firm bananas, peeled and diced • 5 kiwis, peeled and diced • 12 kumquats, very thinly sliced crosswise, seeds removed • 1 cup pomegranate seeds (from 1 pomegranate) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Combine the sugar, 2 cups water, the ginger and vanilla seeds and pod in a saucepan. 2. Use a vegetable peeler to remove wide strips of zest from the lemon and 1 orange, add to the saucepan and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce the heat and simmer 5 minutes. Refrigerate until cold. 3. Meanwhile, peel the remaining oranges with a paring knife, cutting along the natural curve of the fruit. 4. Hold an orange over a large bowl and cut along both sides of each membrane to free the segments, letting them fall into the bowl. 5. Squeeze each empty membrane to release the juices. Repeat with the remaining oranges. 6. Add the mangoes, bananas, kiwis, kumquats and pomegranate seeds and gently toss. 7. Pour the syrup over the fruit and chill overnight. 8. Before serving, remove the citrus zest, ginger and vanilla pod. Spoon the fruit and syrup into bowls.



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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Tampa Bay RFCI
2812 N. Wilder Rd.
Plant City, FL 33565-2669

