

July 2011



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

<http://www.rarefruit.org>

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

Upcoming Programs and Events

July 10: Kenneth Der will speak on *Growing Blueberries Organically*.

July 9 and 10: USF Botanical Gardens Tropical Plant Fair.

Saturday from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Sunday from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

For more information, call (813) 910-3274

July 16 and 17: Jene's Tropicals 15th Annual Tropical Fruit Tasting.

Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Free to the public.

6831 Central Ave., St. Petersburg.

For more information, call (727) 344-1668 or view www.tropicalfruit.com

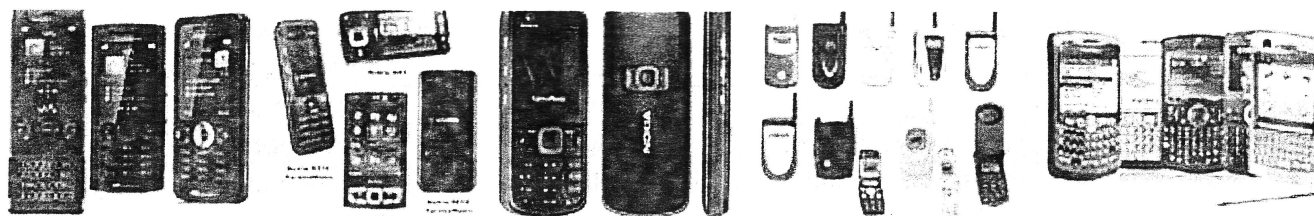
Welcome to Our Newest Members

☼ David and Diana Sullivan of Tampa ☼ Joseph Lofley, Sr. of Apollo Beach

2011 Membership Directories

Many thanks to Members Linda and Charles Novak who have updated the membership directories.

Don't forget to pick up your copy at the July meeting.



President: Paul Branesky

Editor: Gloria Sciuto; Support: Bob & Paula Heath; Production/Distribution: Charles & Linda Novak

⌘ RFCI Newsletter Editor Needed ⌘

by Gloria Sciuto

It's hard to believe that I have been the club's newsletter editor for almost two years. I've enjoyed serving the Club in this capacity, but I can no longer continue.

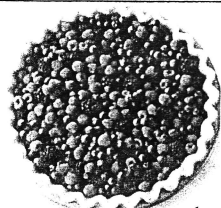
I plan to write the August newsletter but, after that time, I will be looking to pass the task on to another member.

Here is your opportunity to get more involved in RFCI. If you know Microsoft Word and like to write, please consider this opportunity. Many members, especially those who cannot attend the meetings, enjoy staying in touch with the Club by reading about what's happening as well as by learning about what our speakers share on timely topics, such as citrus greening.

If you are interested, you can contact Charles or Linda Novak at the meeting, call them at (813) 754-1399 or email them at charles.novak@gmail.com, or you can contact me at profs_stautz@yahoo.com or call me at 727-280-4907.

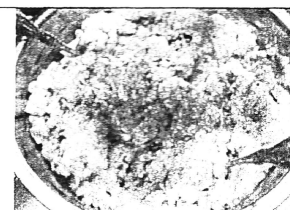
⌘ Sign Up for Email ⌘

Help save a tree for humanity as well as time and money for our club by signing up for your electronic copy today. Members also receive selected additional articles of interest chosen by Charles and Linda Novak. Just notify Charles or Linda at (813) 754-1399 or charles.novak@gmail.com.

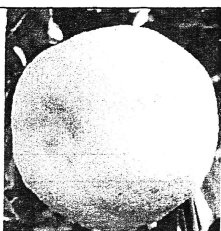


⌘ June's Tasting Table ⌘

Thank you to the following folks for their tasty offerings and to all those who did not sign the sheet. Members who donate food may now receive a ticket for the raffle.



Name	Item	Name	Item
Coronel	Jelly roll	Vega	White rice and chicken fricassee
Lee	Mango upside down cake	Johnston	Cherry cobbler
J. Newcombe	Fruit compote	Kirby	Salmon croquettes
Lavalette	Fried bananas	Scott	Watermelon
Rediccliffe	Tropical ambrosia salad	Sweet	Apple cobbler
Clarke	Coconut bread, pastas salad, tropical punch	McAveety	Tomato salsa, Cuban potato salad
Shigemura/Sawada	Fried turkey wontons, sweet chili sauce, Ahi Tuna poke, blackberry cream fruit bars		
Novak	Tropical carrot salad, cantaloupe, pineapple, blueberries, 6 gallons of juice		



Yuzu copied from Tradewinds.com

∞ What's Happening ∞

by
Paul Zmoda

I've been testing two products for a while now, that you may not have heard about. The first is PREV-AM – a liquid miticide. This product, which contains citrus rind oils, really works to control spider mites in hard-to-control situations. I am growing a rare citrus called Yuzu, which is very popular in Japan and on the West coast. The Yuzu is used to make Ponzu sauce.

My three trees get terribly infested with spider mites. I've tried all kinds of "remedies," including malathion and oil sprays. They don't work. Mites are visible a week later.

With PREV-AM, I get almost total knockdown, and I observe almost no mites for several months thereafter. PREV-AM is made by the ORO AGRI company. For more information on ORO AGRI and PREV-AM, refer to <http://www.oroagri.com/home/english/region/north-america/us/products/prev-am>.

The second product is Agricom, a soil amendment claims to fortify the nutritional needs and metabolism of beneficial soil microbes. The seller says that this action allows the organisms to break down organic matter, such as mulches, etc. faster so that plants have a larger supply of nutrients than without treatment.

I decided to test Agricom on my okra, which I plant each year. To test Agricom, I drenched the first row of okra plants with the product, but not the second row. I used organic fish emulsion once on both rows.

After about one month or so, the first (treated) row was noticeably taller by a few inches, on average, than the second (untreated) row.

Agricom is made by Environmental Technology. For more information, send mail to env.tech@gmail.com.

These tests seem to validate the claims made by both companies.

New plantings: cowpeas, "red noodle," yard long beans, mint and moringa.

Editor's Note: RFCI does not endorse either of these products. For more information on either of these products, please contact Paul Zmoda directly.

∞ Tropical Fruits Database ∞

Need or want to do some research on tropical fruits? Take a look at <http://www.tradewindsfruit.com/fruitsscintific.htm>. You'll also find information on "Fruits around the World," "Plant Hardiness," and "Vegetables and Fruiting Annuals."

This website is sponsored by Trade Winds Fruit, a merchant that is located in Santa Rosa, CA.

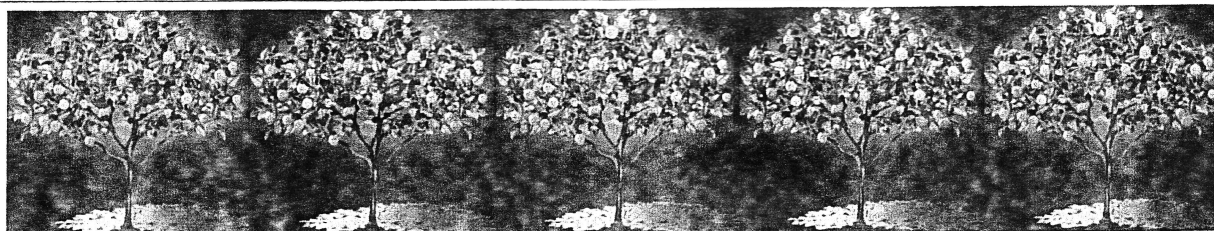


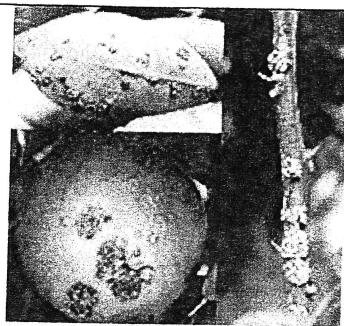
June's Plant Exchange



Just a reminder that members who donate food may now receive a ticket for the raffle. Members who donate plant(s) may now receive a ticket for the raffle.

Plant	Donor	Winner
2 Pineapple Abacca	Bob Heath	K. Dobnitor
2 Chaya spinach	Bob Heath	---
2 Kei apple	Bob Heath	D. Jackson
Orange berry	Bob Heath	---
Yellow guava	Bob Heath	---
Black pepper	Charles Novak	S. McAveety
3 Barbados cherry	Charles Novak	A Newell
14 Loquat	Rare Fruit Council	Bob Young
9 Sweet potato vine	Bill Vega	C. Gamboni
Loquat	V. Cimafranca	W. Vega
Sea grapes	V. Cimafranca	---
Hua Moa	Roshan Premraj	---
Loquat	Roshan Premraj	---
2 Gardenias	James Oliver	---
Raja Puri Banana	James Oliver	---
4 Japanese Eggplant	Sully LaValette	R. Shigemura, Shane Smith
Garlic chives	Sully LaValette	---
Papaya	Keith Kirby	R. Shigemura
4 Ice Cream Bananas	Omar Lamelas	D. Jackson, Bob Young
4 Cherry of the Rio Grande	Thom Scott	Bob Young, J. Oliver
6 Mother Earth News	Thom Scott	---
3 Garden Books	Thom Scott	---
2 Pink Ipe	B. Reddicliffe	D. Jackson
Avocado	J. Badias	J.M. Ritter
Avocado	C. O'Neale	---
Loquat	D. Jackson	---
Loquat	D. Beard	---
Aunt Molly's Ground Cherry	J. Porter	---
Pole Bean	A. Male	---

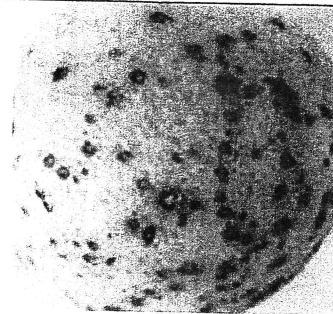




Citrus canker

∞ Citrus Diseases ∞

by Jamie Yates of the
Florida Citrus Research and
Education Center



Citrus black spot

Canker picture copied from <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs382>; Black spot picture copied from <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp135>

Jamie brought us a wealth of information about citrus diseases, including citrus canker, citrus greening and citrus black spot.

Citrus Canker

Citrus canker can attack both oranges and grapefruit. According to the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences (IFAS) Extension, the disease is "characterized by the dark brown or blacked raised corky lesions surrounded by an oily or water-soaked margin." The leaves also show "slightly raised, tiny blister-like lesions."

Young trees are most susceptible. Though the canker is ugly, citrus canker does not affect the fruit. Citrus canker does not harm humans.

The IFAS Extension reports that "Citrus canker is highly contagious. It is spread by:

- Wind-driven rain
- Storm events, such as tornadoes and tropical storms
- Flooding
- Citrus leafminer (moth)
- Birds and other animals
- Overhead irrigation
- Human movement of infected plant material
- Human and equipment movement within groves"

You can help by doing the following:

- "Decontaminate with freshly mixed bleach water
- Remove trees (however, this is no longer mandatory)
- Defoliate
- Put up a windbreak
- Spray with copper spray
- Control leafminer moths"

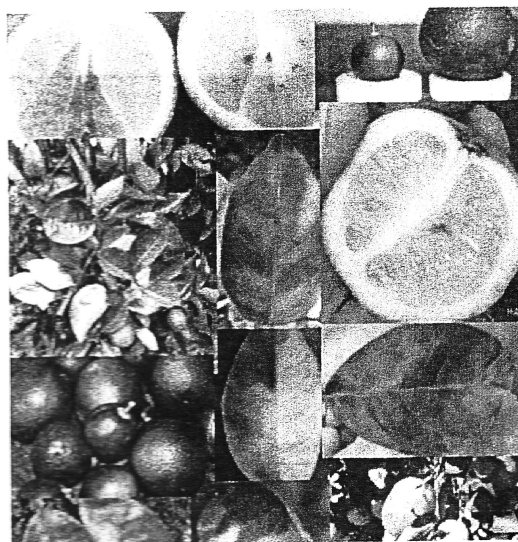
Citrus Greening (Huanglongbing)

Citrus greening was first detected in Southern Florida in 2005. The disease affects all types of citrus. It is characterized by asymmetrical leaves, yellow shoots, yellow veins and vein corking.

According to the Florida IFAS, symptoms can be found year 'round, however, they are much more prominent from September through March.

The disease is bacterial but it is spread by the Asian citrus psyllid, which is barely visible since it is about the size of a flea.

These psyllids grow from egg to adult in approximately two weeks.



"Currently, chemical control of the psyllid and removal of the infected trees are the only methods available to manage the spread of greening," according to the Florida IFAS.

Citrus Black Spot

Citrus Black Spot is "no longer considered an exotic disease," according to the University of Florida IFAS Extension. It was "first found in South Florida in March of 2010."

It can infect all commercial cultivars, according to the USF IFAS, however, "late-maturing cultivars, such as Valencia and lemons are most vulnerable."

Characteristics include:

- "Small, round, sunken lesions that first appear on the sunny side of the fruit
- Fungal structures that appear as slightly elevated black dots
- The leaves also show small, round and sunken lesions but with a gray center"

Black spot is spread by:

- "Wind-borne spores
- Rain splash
- Movement of infected plant material"

You can help by:

- "Applying fungicide, such as copper
- Eliminating leaf litter
- Increasing the airflow in trees"

For more information on Black Spot, see <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/PP/PP28100.pdf>.

For more information about these and other diseases as well as a wealth of other information, see the University of Florida IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center website at: www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu.

∞ 1998 Revisited: Drought Covers 93% of the State ∞

According to the June 16, 2011 edition of the Orlando Sentinel, "Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam says drought conditions are the same as in 1998 when wildfires devastated Florida. Putnam told Governor Rick Scott and Florida Cabinet colleagues Thursday that drought covers 93 percent of the state.

In 1998, Flagler County was entirely evacuated and a July 4th auto race in Daytona Beach was postponed because of wildfires. While rainfall has increased over the last few days, it will take days and days of rain before the benefit of the rain outweighs the danger of the lightning that accompanies the storms.

Many recent fires have been blamed on lightning. Statewide, 50,000 lightning strikes were recorded Wednesday, Putnam said. Of the active fires, 51 are more than 100 acres in size."



Here is the latest from www.watermatters.org:

"During the summer months of June, July, August and September, yards need no more than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of water every 2 to 3 days. If your lawn has received enough water from rainfall, then you can turn off your irrigation system and turn it back on when needed.

*Follow these tips when you
"watch the weather, wait to water"*

Water only when your yard needs it

The simplest way to determine if your yard needs water is to look for these visual clues:

- Grass blades are folded in half lengthwise on at least one-third of your yard.
- Grass blades appear blue-gray.
- Grass blades do not spring back but leave footprints for several minutes after walking on it."

Learn how to recognize the signs over overwatering in your yard by viewing the following video at:
http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/conservation/irrigating/index_WATCH_THE_WEATHER#video.

How to Build Your Own Rain Barrel

A great way to save water is to use a rain barrel. Check out these great resources for making your own rain barrel and then how to harvest the rainwater.

- Step 1. Clean the barrel.
- Step 2. Install a hose spigot.
- Step 3. Build a platform.
- Step 4. Connect the downspout to barrel.
- Step 5. Cut the barrel opening.

Watch the video that details these steps created by Hillsborough County at
<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/conservation/rainbarrel/make-a-rain-barrel.html>

You can download the 28-page guide called *Rain Barrels: A Homeowners' Guide*
http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/publications/files/rain_barrels_guide.pdf. This guide was also created by the Hillsborough County Water Department and funded by the District.

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