



RFCI

May 2014

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

<http://www.rarefruit.org>

Tampa.Bay.RFCI@gmail.com

<http://www.facebook.com/TampaBayChapterRareFruitCouncilIntlInc>

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

œ Upcoming Programs and Events œ

May 18th - Please note the change in date!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Vicky Parsons will speak on the wonders of the NEEM tree.

June 7th - Manatee chapter will host the multi-group meeting at the beautiful Palma Sola Botanic Park in Bradenton. PSBG is an interactive learning garden with a fruit and nut section maintained by the Manatee chapter. The Tampa chapter has also donated plants to this garden. This is a potluck, bring a dish of your choosing.

June 8th - Mycologist Michael (Mycol) Stevens will speak on all kinds of Florida mushrooms. A slideshow and live specimens will be a part of this fungi presentation.

July 13th - To be announced.

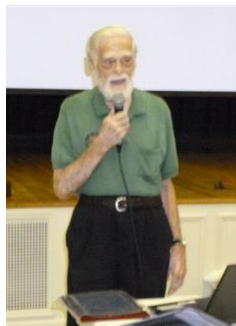
August 3rd - Change of date!!! Meeting will be held on this date, please mark your calendar!

œ Welcome New Membersœ

Atlee and Ginger Davis Eagle Lake

œ In Memory œ

Robert T. Heath



It is with great sadness that we report that a founding member of the Tampa Chapter of the Rare Fruit Council Intl., Bob Heath, passed away on April 6, 2014, at age 87. Bob was a Tampa native, and so much more. He was an intellect, a thinker with a serious but still humorous side. He was also a devoted husband for 59 years and father of six. He was also an entrepreneur, carpenter, machinist, artist, poet, and he spent not a boring day in his life! His contributions to our Club cannot be measured, and his passion for growing shall continue to grow with all the Clubs members. Thank you, Bob!

President: Thom Scott; Editor: Denise Provencher; Photographs: Fred Engelbrecht
Membership: Bryon Provencher; Production/Distribution: Denise Provencher

☞ What's Happening ☞

by Paul Zmoda

Many people celebrated St. Patrick's Day on March 17th. I celebrated it because we received 2.4 inches of wonderful rain. I also had a reason to celebrate, as March 15th is our "frost free" date - no frosts are statistically forecast after that.

Recently, I've contracted "mayhaw fever". This condition makes me want to grow more mayhaws. Out of nowhere, my fellow fruit-growing friend in Kentucky, Dr. Louis Pittman mailed a box of mayhaw scions for me to graft onto my older *Crataegus Aestivalis* tree.

I spent several hours top-working: Texas Star, Royalty, Big Red, Turkeyhaw, Duck Lake, and Barr's Collossal, using cleft grafts. As of April 10th, most grafts are successful.

All of our plums are blooming and setting fruits. Allspice trees are flowering as well and so are two Arbequina olives! I hope we get lots of olive fruit this year as we are almost finished eating our last jar from 2011.

All in all, this has been a great winter for us: only two or three light frosts which amounted to zero plant damage, coupled with regular rainfall. I couldn't ask for more.

I donated a wine-grape planting to the Florida Learning Garden located at the Florida State Fairground in Tampa. Hopefully, this will inspire visitors to raise their own grapes for wine making.

New plantings: tomatoes, pumpkins, okra, hot peppers, grape, cowpeas, also yellow elder and passionfruit (both from seeds that I brought back from our trip to Puerto Rico in 2013). Also, a celeste fig and a greek olive obtained at the big spring sale at USF in Tampa.

☞ Inaugural Loquat Festival in New Port Richey 4/5/14 ☞



Dell DeChant explains growing loquat trees.



Sue Andreski makes products from the loquat fruit from her farm.

☞ Pictures from the USF Plant sale April 12 and 13 ☜

The plant sale was a success and we sold many plants and a lot of fruit juices. The weather was beautiful!



Sally doing the inventory.



Sally and Ray Green.



Paul Zmoda was intrigued by "Simon" the skunk.



The guys with Al Hendry, our plant expert.



People showed great interest in our display.

∞ Local Events ∞

Manatee Rare Fruit Council Tree Sale Sunday, May 18th

Thousands of unusual fruiting plants and trees at reasonable prices, from 10 AM to 4 PM at Bradenton Area Convention Center, One Haben Blvd, Palmetto, FL 34219. **Free admission, parking** and expert advice. See our Fruiting Plant and Tree Exhibit at Palma Sola Botanical Park, funded by this Sale, and make your wish list. www.mrfc.org, or call Pete Ray, (941) 776-0222.

Rare Fruit Conference July 9 - 13, Tropical Fruit and Vegetable Society of Redland at the Fruit and Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Ave, Homestead, FL. This very exciting event offers tours of fabulous botanical gardens, research stations and has various programs and workshops on rare tropical fruits, and incredible tastings. Full event cost is \$150., weekend fee \$100. **For information contact Chris Rollins, Fruit & Spice Park Manager, 305-242-7934 or rollins@miamidade.gov**

Founding member Jud Newcombe supplied the following information and criteria for how the displays at the Fair are judged, and ribbons are awarded. Anyone who has ideas for future displays, and would like to participate in the design and creation of such displays is welcome to.



JUDGING POINTS

Division: HE

DESIGN (Max. 25 points)

Main Theme presented
Targeted plants highlighted
Effective use of scenery
Originality
Attention drawing

EDUCATIONAL VALUE (Max. 25 points)

Targeted plants labeled appropriately
Labels clearly visible for public
Cultural information presented
Cultural information available
Displaying society clearly identified

PLANT QUALITY (Max. 25 points)

Healthy, clean & vigorous plants
Freedom from pests
Suitable containers
Flower quality if applicable
No Yellowing Leaves, pest damage, etc.
(including background plants)

OVERALL ATTRACTIVENESS (Max. 25 points)

Aesthetically pleasing, balanced
Neat & clean condition
Labeling & signs attractive
Plant variety
Quality of presentation
(co-ordination of design materials & plants)

TOTAL POINTS MAXIMUM 100 points

Here is a handy reference guide for planting times for Florida.

| Crop | Planting Dates in Florida (outdoors) ¹ | | | Plant Family ² | Transplantability ³ | Pounds yield per 100' | Days to Harvest ⁴ | Seeds/plants Per 100' | Spacing (inches) | | Seed depth (inches) |
|--|--|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------|---------------------------|
| | North | Central | South | | | | | | Rows | Plants | |
| Beans, bush | Mar-Apr Aug-Sep | Feb-Apr Sep | Sep-Apr | Fabaceae | III | 45 | 50-60 | 1 lb. | 18-30 | 2-3 | 1-2 |
| Beans, pole | Mar-Apr Aug-Sep | Feb-Apr Aug-Sep | Aug-Apr | Fabaceae | III | 80 | 55-70 | ½ lb. | 40-48 | 3-6 | 1-2 |
| Beans, lima | Mar-Aug | Feb-Apr Sept. | Aug-Apr | Fabaceae | III | 50 | 65-75 | 2 lb. | 24-36 | 3-4 | 1-2 |
| Beets | Sep-Mar | Oct-Mar | Oct-Feb | Chenopodiaceae | I | 75 | 50-65 | 1 oz. | 14-24 | 3-5 | ½ -1 |
| Broccoli | Aug-Feb | Aug-Jan | Sept-Jan | Brassicaceae | I | 50 | 75-90 | 100 plts (1/8 oz.) | 30-36 | 12-18 | ½ -1 |
| Cabbage | Sep-Feb | Sep-Jan | Sep-Jan | Brassicaceae | I | 125 | 90-110 (70-90) | 100 plts (1/8 oz) | 24-36 | 12-24 | ½ -1 |
| Cantaloupes | Mar-Apr | Feb-Apr | Aug-Sep Feb-Mar | Cucurbitaceae | III | 150 | 75-90 (65-75) | ½ oz. | 60-72 | 24-36 | 1-2 |
| Carrots | Sep-Mar | Oct-Mar | Oct-Feb | Apiaceae | II | 100 | 65-80 | 1/8 oz. | 16-24 | 1-3 | ½ |
| Cauliflower | Jan-Feb Aug-Oct | Oct-Jan | Oct-Jan | Brassicaceae | I | 80 | 75-90 (55-70) | 55 plts (1/8 oz) | 24-30 | 18-24 | ½ -1 |
| Celery | Jan-Mar | Aug-Feb | Oct-Jan | Apiaceae | II | 150 | 115-125 (80-105) | 150 plts (1/8 oz) | 24-36 | 6-10 | ¼ - ½ |
| Chinese cabbage | Oct-Feb | Oct-Jan | Nov-Jan | Brassicaceae | I | 100 | 70-90 (60-70) | 125 plts (1/8 oz) | 24-36 | 12-24 | ¼ - ¾ |
| Collards | Feb-Apr Aug-Nov | Aug-Mar | Aug-Feb | Brassicaceae | I | 150 | 70-80 | 100 plts (1/8 oz) | 24-30 | 10-18 | ½ -1 |
| Corn, sweet | Mar-Apr Aug | Feb-Mar Aug-Sep | Aug-Mar | Poaceae | III | 115 | 60-95 | 2 oz. | 24-36 | 12-18 | 1-2 |
| Cucumbers | Feb-Apr Aug-Sep | Feb-Mar Sep | Sep-Mar | Cucurbitaceae | III | 100 | 50-65 (40-50) | ½ oz. | 36-60 | 12-24 | 1-2 |
| Eggplant | Feb-July | Jan-Mar Aug-Sep | Dec-Feb Aug-Oct | Solanaceae | I | 200 | 90-110 (75-90) | 50 plts 1 pkt | 36-42 | 24-36 | ½ |
| Endive/Escarole | Feb-Mar Sep | Jan-Feb Sep | Sep-Jan | Asteraceae | I | 75 | 80-95 | 100 plts | 18-24 | 8-12 | ½ |
| Kale | Sep-Feb | Sep-Jan | Sep-Jan | Brassicaceae | I | 75 | 70-80 (55) | 100 plts (1/8 oz) | 24-30 | 12-18 | ½ -1 |
| Kohlrabi | Sep-Mar | Oct-Mar | Oct-Feb | Brassicaceae | I | 100 | 70-80 (50-55) | 1/8 oz. | 24-30 | 3-5 | ½ -1 |
| Lettuce: Crisp, Butter-head, Leaf & Romaine | Feb-Mar Sep-Oct | Sep-Mar | Sep-Jan | Asteraceae | I | 75 | 50-90 | 100 plts (1/4 oz.) | 12-24 | 8-12 | ½ |
| Mustard | Sep-May | Sep-Mar | Sep-Mar | Brassicaceae | II | 100 | 40-60 | ¼ oz. | 14-24 | 1-6 | ½ -1 |
| Okra | Mar-July | Mar-Aug | Aug-Sep | Malvaceae | III | 70 | 50-75 | 1 oz. | 24-40 | 6-12 | 1-2 |
| Onions, Bulbing | Sep-Dec | Sep-Dec | Sep-Nov | Liliaceae | III | 100 | 120-160 | 300 plts/ sets, 1 oz | 12-24 | 4-6 | ½ -1 |

| Crop | Planting Dates in Florida (outdoors) ¹ | | | Plant Family ² | Transplantability ³ | Pounds yield per 100' | Days to Harvest ⁴ | Seeds/plants Per 100' | Spacing (inches) | | Seed depth (inches) |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------|---------------------------|
| | North | Central | South | | | | | | Rows | Plants | |
| | | | | | | | (110-120) | seed | | | |
| Onions, Bunching (Green onions) | Aug-Mar | Aug-Mar | Sep-Mar | Liliaceae | III | 100 | 50-75 (30-40) | 800 plts/sets, 1 - 1½ oz seed | 12-24 | 1-2 | 2-3 |
| Onions (Shallots) | " | " | " | Liliaceae | III | 100 | (30-40) | " | 18-24 | 6-8 | ½ - ¾ |
| Peas, English | Jan-Mar | Sep-Mar | Sep-Feb | Fabaceae | III | 40 | 50-70 | 1 lb. | 24-36 | 2-3 | 1-2 |
| Peas, southern | Mar-Aug | Mar-Sep | Aug-Apr | Fabaceae | III | 80 | 60-90 | ½ oz. | 30-36 | 2-3 | 1-2 |
| Peppers | Feb-Apr July-Aug | Jan-Mar Aug-Sep | Aug-Mar | Solanaceae | I | 50 | 80-100 (60-80) | 100 plts 1 pkt | 20-36 | 12-24 | ½ |
| Potatoes | Jan-Mar | Jan-Feb | Sep-Jan | Solanaceae | II | 150 | 85-110 | 15 lbs. | 36-42 | 8-12 | 3-4 |
| Potatoes, sweet | Mar-Jun | Feb-Jun | Feb-Jun | Convolvulaceae | I | 300 | (120-140) | 100 plts | 48-54 | 12-14 | --- |
| Pumpkin | Mar-Apr Aug | Feb-Mar Aug | Jan-Feb Aug-Sep | Cucurbitaceae | III | 300 | 90-120 (80-110) | 1 oz. | 60-84 | 36-60 | 1-2 |
| Radish | Sep-Mar | Sep-Mar | Oct-Mar | Brassicaceae | III | 40 | 20-30 | 1 oz. | 12-18 | 1-2 | ¾ |
| Spinach | Oct-Nov | Oct-Nov | Oct-Jan | Chenopodiaceae | II | 40 | 45-60 | 1 oz. | 14-18 | 3-5 | ¾ |
| Squash, Summer | Mar-Apr Aug-Sep | Feb-Mar Aug-Sep | Jan-Mar Sep-Oct | Cucurbitaceae | III | 150 | 40-55 (35-40) | 1½ oz. | 36-48 | 24-36 | 1-2 |
| Squash, Winter | Mar Aug | Feb-Mar Aug | Jan-Feb Sep | Cucurbitaceae | III | 300 | 80-110 (70-90) | 1 oz. | 60-90 | 36-48 | 1-2 |
| Strawberry | Oct-Nov | Oct-Nov | Oct-Nov | Rosaceae | I | 50 | (90-110) | 100 plts | 36-40 | 10-14 | --- |
| Tomatoes, Stake | Feb-Apr Aug | Jan-Mar Sep | Aug-Mar | Solanaceae | I | 200 | 90-110 (75-90) | 70 plts 1 pkt | 36-48 | 18-24 | ½ |
| Tomatoes, Ground | " | " | " | Solanaceae | I | 200 | 90-110 (75-90) | 35 plts 1 pkt | 40-60 | 36-40 | ½ |
| Tomatoes, Container | " | " | " | Solanaceae | I | 200 | 90-110 (75-90) | | | | |
| Turnips | Jan-Apr Aug-Oct | Jan-Mar Sep-Nov | Oct-Feb | Brassicaceae | III | 150 | 40-60 | ¼ oz. | 12-20 | 4-6 | ½ - 1 |
| Watermelon, Large | Mar-Apr July-Aug | Jan-Mar Aug | Jan-Mar Aug-Sep | Cucurbitaceae | III | 400 | 85-95 (80-90) | 1/8 oz. | 84-108 | 48-60 | 1-2 |
| Watermelon, Small | " | " | " | Cucurbitaceae | III | 400 | 85-95 (80-90) | 1/8 oz. | 48-60 | 15-30 | " |
| Watermelon, Seedless | " | " | " | Cucurbitaceae | III | 400 | 85-95 (80-90) | 70 plts | 48-60 | 15-30 | " |

1 **North:** north of State Rd 40; **Central:** between State Rds 40 and 70; **South:** south of State Rd 70.

2 Rotate crops to avoid soil pest problems; avoid planting vegetables belonging to the same family in successive seasons.

3 Transplantability categories: I, easily survives transplanting; II, survives with care; III, use seeds or containerized transplants only.

4 Days from seeding to harvest: Values in parentheses are days from transplanting to first harvest.

From University of Florida publication, "Florida Vegetable Planting Guide, Table 3", online at:
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>

❧ Questions and answers from members ❧

Q. I applied a fertilizer for acid loving plants to my beautiful, productive blueberry bushes and they got severe burning. Looks like I will lose most of them. What happen?

A. It is very important to use a fertilizer labeled for use on blueberries. The source of potash is the problem. Never use a fertilizer on blueberries that has muriate of potash as an ingredient. The chloride levels can kill the blueberry plants. Look for sulfate of potash. The nitrogen should come from urea or ammonium sulfate.



Q. I've got spring fever and am dying to try some of the peaches and blueberries at the local big box store. The varieties seem to be USF introductions. Is this a good time to plant them?

A. Yes, give in to the spring fever! To be sure you select varieties with the characteristics you want and that meet the chill hour requirements for your area, check out the following USF publications.

The Blueberry Gardeners guide: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg359>

Blueberry Varieties for Florida: edis.ifas.ufl.edu/HS21500.pdf

Florida Peach and Nectarine Varieties: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg374>

Stone Fruit Varieties: <http://hos.ufl.edu/extension/stonefruit/stone-fruit-varieties>

Q. My Mango gets a lot of flowers, but seldom fruits. What's wrong?

A. The inflorescence of mango trees are complicated structures, with both male and bisexual flowers. Mangoes usually bloom in the dry season, which is now for Florida, but some varieties bloom multiple times. Timing of rain, lack of a pollinator, too warm/cold a winter, lack of nutrition, and fungus can contribute to poor fruit set. Some varieties set well one year and then skip a year. There are many factors affecting fruit set.

Q. Can kiwi vines grow here in Central Florida?

A. According to the University of Florida, getting sufficient chill hours for kiwi is difficult, and will result in poor fruit set. UF recommends varieties such as Abbott, Allison, Bruno, or Hayward. Just Fruits and Exotics mentions several varieties for zones 8B - 9 such as Darlene's (F) and Barba's (M) for fuzzy varieties, and for smooth skinned varieties try Ken's Red (F), Anna (F) and Male Arguta (M). Keep the roots in the shade, and mulch them to keep them cool. Provide plenty of organic matter to help against nematodes. For more information, view: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg248> Remember, you need a male (M) and (F) female plant.



To All:

The Manatee Rare Fruit Council was saddened to learn of the passing of Bob Heath. Bob was co-founder of the Tampa Bay Rare Fruit Council and a great natural resource for fruit growers in Central Florida. He was a pioneer in the growing of tropical and subtropical fruit trees in this area and mentor to many. Let us hope that those he mentored will pick up the challenge so that we may have lost a great teacher but gained many others through his teachings and examples. He will be missed.



Ray Jones, president Manatee Rare Fruit Council.

Notes

Please remember to wear your badge at all meetings! Thank you.

If you have changed your address or email address, don't forget to let us know! We are getting a few returned emailed copies and mailed copies. Please update your information.



Important: Check your Newsletter address label for your membership renewal date. Membership is \$20 per year.

Tampa Bay RFCI
39320 North Ave.
Zephyrhills, FL 33542