

RFCI

September 2020

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 American Legion Post 111,

6918 N. Florida Ave, Tampa 33604

⌘ Upcoming Programs and Events ⌘

No meeting for September. The current ongoing Covid-19 situation and local health recommendations still advise against group meetings, so the Club meeting for September has been cancelled. The health and safety of our members continues to be top priority. Interesting options continue to be researched. The current situation will be assessed again for October, and whether USF will be able to hold the plant sale.

Please follow the health guidelines of local, state, and federal agencies and stay healthy.

⌘ Welcome New Members ⌘

Kayla Hoag Tampa



Crossword Puzzle Contest!

While we are unable to gather for face-to-face meetings, you can still learn more about the growth, propagation, care, and use of tropical fruits. One way to do this is by reading our fantastic and informative monthly newsletter! This month we are featuring a crossword puzzle based on the articles in last month's (August) newsletter. Take a look at the puzzle that you can find in this issue on page 71. Complete it at your leisure or work through it more quickly and enter our contest! The first person to submit a correct solution will receive a Tampa Bay RFCI logo coffee mug mailed to their home address on file with the club. The second and third correct entries will receive a club logo stylus pen. To be eligible, you must be a current paid member of the club receiving the newsletter either by email or in print. To submit your solution, print the puzzle, complete it, and then mail it to Susan McAveety, our Treasurer, at 8621 Foxtail Court in Tampa, 33647. Be sure to include your name and phone number. Contest ends September 15th.

President: Fred Engelbrecht; Vice Presidents: Cora Coronel and Kenny Gil; Secretary: Jager Mitchell;
Treasurer: Susan McAveety; Newsletter/Membership: Denise Provencher

∞ What's Happening ∞

by Paul Zmoda

This tropical weather has many of our fruits ripening one after another. I (mostly) beat the crows to our longan crop. At least one hundred pounds were picked and then the tree was topped – I cut off the upper ten feet.



Pindo Palm fruit – photo Paul Zmoda

We got so many guavas that we were able to make a half gallon of juice. Two smallish soursops ripened - one fell off and I accidentally stepped on it, but the second one I clipped off. It was juicy and good. One of our eight foot Arbequina olive trees died. I knew that some kind of insect had bored into the trunk and did a lot of damage. I removed it and replaced it with a Koroneiki olive.

Our Pindo palm is giving endless crops of fruits every few weeks. Some landscapers routinely cut off the flower and fruit clusters – big mistake! This fruit, although fibrous, is of excellent flavor and is eaten fresh or made into jelly which is why the plant is also called Jelly Palm.

Another way to fight HLB in Citrus - the Oak and the Citrus Together

Wise old oak trees may hold an extract that citrus growers can use to protect their fruit trees from the deadliest citrus crop disease the world has known.



The plant disease is called huanglongbing, or HLB, also known by its English name, citrus greening. The disease shows its presence when leaves turn lighter shades of green.

According to University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Science's (UF/IFAS) officials, HLB is responsible for a 90 percent reduction in the production of Florida's most valuable crop.

"Research scientists work with a sense of urgency to contain the pathogen and to manage HLB's impact on our important crop," said Lorenzo Rossi, assistant professor of plant root biology at the UF/IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center (IRREC), located in Fort Pierce, at the center of the Indian River District. The district is known for its peerless grapefruit quality, where it borders the state's central east coast, from its northernmost point in Micco, Florida, to its southernmost point in northern Palm Beach County.

For several years, growers across the state have noted that citrus trees that stood under oak tree canopies, or alongside oak trees, are healthy. However, grapefruit trees in a row or two away from the oak trees showed signs of HLB.

Rossi, along with his UF/IFAS and U.S. Department of Agriculture colleagues, works to develop management tactics for production of fruit on trees affected by HLB. Marco Pitino and Robert Shatters with the U.S. Department of Agriculture U.S. Horticultural Agricultural Service in Fort Pierce, along with Rossi, were responsible for design of the experiment and preparation of the manuscript. Liliana Cano, a plant pathologist with UF/IFAS, and Kasie Sturgeon, Christina Dorado and John Manthey were responsible for planning, conducting the experiment, and analysis of data and preparation of the manuscript.

Rossi's co-workers who study citrus horticulture and hydrology developed water and nutrition management practices. Irrigation and plant nutrition remedies help HLB-affected trees tolerate the disease and extend their production years. Projects funded by the Citrus Research Development Foundation and the USDA are underway.

Rossi and his collaborative research scientists have also been conducting research experiments to test the growers' field observations, which they found to be a positive option to help the growers manage operations with infected fruit trees. The scientists' work appears in this month's issue of Plant Physiology and Biochemistry, an internationally prominent science journal. "Quercus leaf extracts display curative effects against *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* that restore leaf physiological parameters in HLB-affected citrus trees," is the publication title. Quercus is Latin for oak; *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* is the scientific name for the bacterium that causes HLB.

“We found that the application of oak leaf extracts in a greenhouse provides substantial inhibitory effects against the bacterium that causes HLB,” said Rossi.

The researchers’ findings were that citrus leaves treated with oak extracts showed a decrease in the presence of bacteria. Other research results were increased chlorophyll content and plant nutrition. The HLB-affected citrus plants treated with oak leaf extract were better able to uptake nutrients than were the citrus plants treated with only water.

“This study suggests that oak leaf extract will provide a new management treatment program to protect trees that have HLB,” said Rossi. “We will continue to develop a protocol for growers to produce our high-value citrus crops and to reduce the symptoms of HLB on the trees.

From University of Florida IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center Blog:
<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/irrec/>

Did you know - that residential lawns cover 2% of US land and require more irrigation than any agricultural crop in the country? A NASA satellite study showed that residential lawns take up approximately 49,000 square miles. The maintenance of these lawns produces more greenhouse gases than they absorb.

But, this obsession with lawns is changing across the country. Transforming lawns into more biodiverse and useful landscapes saves water, reduces petrol consumption, and reduces the need for dangerous lawn chemicals.

Some states have led to restrictions on water usage for lawns. Creative landowners and landscapers are producing oases of life for

hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies, and wildlife habitats.

Restrictive neighborhood associations are relaxing, allowing residents to plant flowers, and vegetables, and fruit trees in their yards, instead of insisting on perfectly manicured lawns.

This trend is growing quickly, as residents desire to reconnect with nature, grow their own edibles, and enjoy the benefits of interacting with their ecosystem.



Another great nursery to check out, all online, with delivery to Tampa, is the GreenPointe Growers. They have all kinds of fruits, berries, nuts, spice plants, tropical fruits, and a blog. Plus, there is so much information on their website about a lot of fruit related topics, that alone is worth a good read.

<https://askthegreengenie.com/about-us/>

Using Neem Oil

Humans have been using the natural oil of the neem tree (*Azadirachta indica*) for millennia for medicine, cosmetics, and pesticidal purposes. Neem oil is safe to apply to many food and non-food crops both indoors and outdoors. If used according to the label, no adverse effects are expected to humans, wildlife, or the environment.

Most users do not know that there two distinct products derived from neem



oil. When neem oil is removed from the seeds and treated with alcohol, virtually all the Azadirachtin and related substances separate from the oil itself. The remaining oil – without the azadirachtin – is called Clarified Hydrophobic Extract of Neem Oil.

Clarified Hydrophobic Extract of Neem Oil is the perfect choice for fungal diseases such as mildews and rusts on your plants.

Azadirachtin is the active ingredient in the oil used for many kinds of insects, larvae, mites, aphids, and related organisms.

Both of these products are generally sprayed directly on the plants.

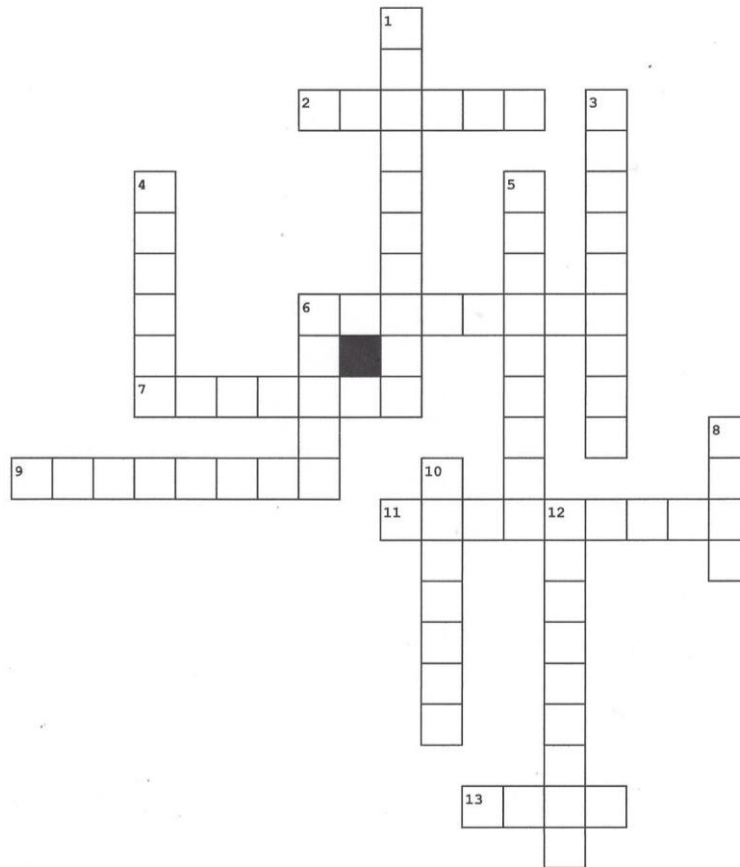
When shopping for neem oil, you will see that the two products are available in the store, both separately, or together. Whether you choose azadirachtin for bugs, or the Clarified Hydrophobic Extract for rust, you now know which ingredient to look for to make the best purchase for your needs.

Enjoy this fun fruit crossword puzzle

By Susan McAveety

Hint – the answers are in last month's newsletter!

News From August



Across

2. This is what a group of crows is called.
6. Green herb used in Salsa Verde.
7. Type of banana whose green fruit can be fried.
9. "Fantastic" and Brogdon" are examples.
11. Worm-like multicellular insects present in Florida soil.
13. The part of a naranjillo fruit that is green/yellow.

Down

1. Latin name is Solanum quitoense
3. Animals that eat both plants and meat.
4. Tomatillos come from this country.
5. Finger limes from this country are naturally resistant to Citrus Greening.
6. Intelligent black birds that like Paul's longans.
8. A tomatillo is covered by this.
10. A substance that shows promise to control HLB.
12. Latin name is Physalis Ixocarpa.

∞ Club Notes ∞

Your submissions for the newsletter, pictures, notes of interest, events, tips, recipes, questions, etc. are especially needed - please send them to bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com
Submissions for the next newsletter due by: **September 22nd**.

The Club would love to hear from anyone interested in joining the Board. It's a great way to learn the goings on within the Club and being involved in planning events, such as the plants sales, farmer markets, fruit tastings, and the Citrus Celebration at the State Fair.

Note: The election of the new Board members will be rescheduled when regular meetings resume. If interested please come to the next meeting once meetings resume.

In August's newsletter, in the article regarding Naranjillo, the alternate name was spelled Lilo, but Lulo is also correct, and may be a more familiar spelling of the nickname. Naranjillo can also be spelled Naranjilla.

Plants for Sale to our Members

RFCI has a limited supply of plants for members only at reasonable prices.
These plants are in 3-gallon pots.

17 mangoes (Maha Chinook variety) \$30 each

Maha Chinook is a variety from Thailand, with oblong medium size fruit of medium firmness, completely fiberless, and delightful sweet floral flavor with just enough tartness. Fruit has a long shelf life, tree has excellent resistance to anthracnose, and will even fruit well in marginal interior areas. Strong producers once they get settled. Not a dwarf variety. Fruit matures early/mid season (late June through July).

Members interested please call/text Cora 727 403-1756, or email jencofarm@aol.com You will be given directions for pickup. Plants are first come, first serve.

∞ Membership information ∞

NEW MEMBERS

Download and fill out a membership application from: <https://rarefruit.org/membership/>,
and send with check or money order for \$20 made out to Tampa Bay RFCI to:
Tampa Bay RFCI, 12722 Prosser Rd., Dade City, FL 33525

RENEWING MEMBERS

Send check or money order for \$20 made out to Tampa Bay RFCI and mail to:
Tampa Bay RFCI, 12722 Prosser Rd., Dade City, FL 33525



The objectives of The Tampa Bay Rare Fruit Council International:

To inform the public about the merits and uses of fruits common to this region and encourages the cultivation, collection, propagation and growth of fruits that are exotic or unusual to west central Florida. The club also encourages the development of new fruit varieties, cooperating with local and foreign agricultural agencies.

Tampa Bay RFCI
12722 Prosser Rd.
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