



RFCI

May 2021

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 ∞



Photo by George Campani

The Florida State Fair is running from **April 22nd to May 2nd**. Stop by and check out the Club's display artfully created by members of the Club.

More pictures and information in the next newsletter.

The Club has tentative plans for a talk on mangoes in June, and a fruit tasting in July.

The way we do things may be a bit different and of course it's all dependent on government allowances for large group gatherings.

Hopefully, with the vaccine program well underway, the Covid situation may improve by summer. Keep your fingers crossed!



∞ Welcome New Members ∞

Johanna Lane Dade City

Richard & Milagros Roetter Brandon

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

Pictures from the April 11th Plant Sale taken by George Campani

The rain held off until right around 11am, giving time for brisk sales and lively conversations. This was the last Club plant sale of the spring, so hope you all got something great for your garden!

There were some favorites, and some rather unusual plants to choose from.

You never know what members will bring!

And we're still smiling under those masks!





✧ What's Happening ✧

by Paul Zmoda

This installment of What's Happening marks my twenty-ninth year writing it.

The winter provided enough chill-hours here to induce flowering on some olive trees. The longan tree made so many flowers, and attracted so many pollinating flies, that you could hear the buzzing from many feet away. We got a big rain storm in the middle of the longan flowering and it seems as if it affected the pollination – the panicles are not holding as much fruit as they do in some years.



Flower buds are appearing on my black sapote tree for the first time since grafting onto native persimmon root-stock in 2016. The budwood came from the estate of late RFCI member Ed Musgrave.

I gave our newest olive orchard a good pruning: large, lower branches were removed as well as most interior, canopy branches to allow sunlight to penetrate.

I was surprised to notice that our Kari carambola produced a fruit right from the trunk. Other fruit trees which do this are jackfruit, durians, and jaboticabas. This phenomenon is called cauliflory.

Central Florida Vegetable Planting Calendar

January	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cantaloupes, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Collards, Corn, Cucumber, Eggplant, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Mustard, Onions, Peas(English), Peppers, Potato, Radish, Spinach, Squash, Swiss Chard, Tomatoes, Turnips, Watermelon	Okra, Peas(Southern), Pumpkin	July
February	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cantaloupes, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Collards, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Mustard, Okra, Onions, Peas, Peppers, Potato, Radish, Spinach, Squash(Summer&Winter), Swiss Chard, Tomato, Turnips, Watermelon	Beans, Carrots, Eggplant, Okra, Onions, Peas, Peppers, Squash(Summer&Winter), Tomato	August
March	Arugula, Beans, Cantaloupes, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Kohlrabi, Okra, Onions, Peas, Peppers, Potato(Sweet), Radish, Spinach, Squash(Summer&Winter), Swiss Chard, Watermelon	Arugula, Beans, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Collards, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Kale, Lettuce, Mustard, Onions, Peppers, Radish, Spinach, Squash(Summer&Winter), Strawberry, Swiss Chard, Tomato, Turnips	September
April	Beans, Corn, Okra, Peas, Potato(Sweet), Squash(Summer&Winter), Swiss Chard	Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Mustard, Onions, Radish, Spinach, Strawberry, Turnips	October
May	Okra, Peas(Southern), Potato(Sweet), Swiss Chard	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Mustard, Onions, Peas, Potato, Radish, Spinach, Swiss Chard, Turnips	November
June	Okra, Peas(Southern), Potato(Sweet)	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Mustard, Onions, Peas, Potato, Radish, Spinach, Swiss Chard, Turnips	December

Updates on Citrus Research – Helpful for Homeowners



Researchers are delving into the issues of sunlight levels, shade, and oak mulch for citrus trees in the battle against greening (HLB). There have been many anecdotal reports from backyard growers, and from those who have citrus growing in the shade of

oak trees in the forest, that these trees are much less affected by greening than those in open sunlight.

It is believed that spreading oak mulch around the base/drip-line of citrus trees is promising in the battle against greening. Researchers at the Indian River Research and Education Center (IRREC) are hoping to discover what it is about the oak that is helpful to the citrus.

A University of Florida student, Lukas Hallman, took advantage of a large oak that was felled during Hurricane Dorian in 2017 to begin his study. Oak mulch made from this tree was applied to the research grove, and each month Hallman took data from the root rhizosphere of these trees, and the results showed improvement in the soil, and also that the compounds in the mulch were helping the trees withstand HLB.

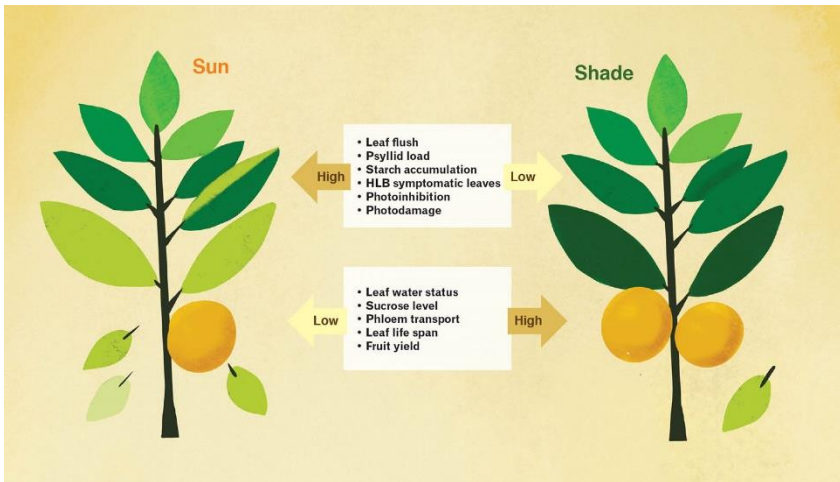
One year into the research, data showed increases in phosphorous, magnesium, and potassium in the soil of the mulched trees. The mulch breaks down, increasing organic matter and increasing moisture in the soil, both of which are beneficial to the trees.

The goal is to continue research and discover what it is about the oak that is working so well.

Sunlight levels have come into question, and thinking is that perhaps citrus trees can get too much of that intense Florida sun, which is stressing the trees, and making them more vulnerable to greening.

It has been discovered that some shade reduces HLB, makes for healthier trees, and improves fruit yields. Studies have shown fewer psyllids, the bug that brings the HLB bacterium, will land on trees in the shade.

This may explain why there are so many reports from landowners with citrus growing in forests that the trees look so healthy and are loaded with fruit.



A major study of citrus in the field with supplied shade levels of 30%, 50%, or 70% was conducted for two years. The trees, even those infected with HLB showed improvements. Trees in 30% shade seemed to find the optimum balance of obtaining the benefits of the shade, and still having enough sunlight to produce good yields.

These particular trees produced twice as much as trees in the sun.

The good thing for the homeowner is that applying oak mulch to their backyard trees is very easy to do considering this resource is most abundant. If you do not have oaks, perhaps a neighbor will be glad to let you rake up a bag.

Applying shade can be done by placing trees near or under oaks, and by utilizing a variety of shade covering materials or films that are on the market today.

Condensed from Citrus Industry Magazine posts.

Member Questions

Question: What is the white powdery stuff on the twigs of my avocado tree?



Answer: The white powdery residue on avocado trees is often the result of an injury. Damage to the branch will cause a wound to develop, and the resulting white powder is the tree's healthy reaction to the injury. If you tasted this material, yes, it's safe to do so, you will find it is sweet. That is due to perseitol, the 7 carbon sugar in the sap of *Persea Americana* (Avocado). If you rub off the white, you may find the cause, a scrape, insect injury, etc.

There are some diseases that cause injury to the tree as well that will cause the tree to exude sap.

When meetings resume, you may bring in a securely bagged sample for one of the Club's experts to examine.

∞ Club Notes ∞

Contributing to the newsletter is a great way to share what you are doing in your garden with other members, learn what other members are growing, and get your questions answered.

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: **May 22nd**.



NOTE: The next board meeting will be May 15th at 1:00 at the American Legion Hall. Any member who wishes to express a great idea, awesome suggestion, or share a concern is welcome to attend.

∞ 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.

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