



RFCI

October 2023

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 Unity North Tampa Church,

19520 Holly Lane, Lutz, FL 33558

∞ Upcoming Programs and Events ∞

October 13th (Friday - set-up day) Saturday - October 14 and Sunday - October 15 - USF Plant Sale.



More details on page 77!

There will be no regular meeting in October.
See you at the Plant Sale! Volunteers are needed to help with setting up the Club's sales booth on Friday at 1PM, and also from 9am-3pm on both Saturday and Sunday for the big sales event. Wear your Club t-shirt. The Club will provide drinks and snacks.

∞ Welcome New Members ∞

Keanna De La Cruz
Kay and Carl Ferraro

Gibson
Tampa

Matthew Szasz
Hayden Reynolds

Temple Terrace
Lutz

Congratulations to the winners of the Pawpaw icon search in last month's newsletter.

Sandra Kischuk
Susan McAveety

WP Mitchell
Matt Lawson

The icon was located on page 71 after the next submission date.



President: Hillary Cosenza; Vice President: Dylan Chadwell; Secretary: KC Gonzalez;
Treasurer: Susan McAveety; Newsletter/Membership: Denise Provencher

☞ Mulberries! ☛

With Josh Jamison



At September's meeting, members learned about mulberries (*Morus sp.*). Mulberries have long been cultivated in many parts of the world, originally for cultivation of silkworm, who only eat mulberry leaves. The nutritious leaves have been used for animal fodder, and the wood has also been used. Mulberries being valued as an easy backyard fruit tree came later. In Florida they are one of the easiest fruits to grow, needing little attention.

There are four basic types of mulberry species, with the nomenclature being rather confusing even for the experts. There is "*alba*" – white – originating from Asia, "*rubra*" – red – from North America, "*nigra*" – black – from SW Asia, and "*macroura*" – of Himalayan origin. Unfortunately, the color in the name does not indicate the fruit color. There are purple albas, and white nigras.

Despite being very easy to grow, productive, self-fertile trees, one problem that mulberries can experience is nematodes. The nematodes in Florida soil can kill a mulberry tree as they are very susceptible to them.

Josh says to be sure if you purchase plants, that they are on a nematode resistant rootstock. Otherwise, they may not thrive if your location has nematodes. Some of the best nematode resistant varieties that can be grown for themselves, and also used to graft other varieties to are: Tice – (keep in mind this is a big tree!), 6th ST, Florida Giant, and Hunter.



There are many, many varieties available, but there are four considerations when choosing your mulberry:



Vigor and size – Choose to fit the area you will be growing it in.

Time of bud break – if you are susceptible to late frosts and freezing, choose a variety that will bloom later.

Chill hour requirements – the varieties of tropical origin are better for Florida as they will have a minimum chill hour requirement.

Nematode resistance – since nematodes are a problem in Florida, choose a more resistant variety. Growing a variety on its own rootstock that is not nematode resistant will eventually result in the loss of the tree.

⌘ What's Happening ⌘

by Paul Zmoda

This rainy season is turning out to be a bust. We did get 6 inches from hurricane Idalia, but not much else.

Pond apples are ripening and dropping. They are not very tasty and there is little to eat anyway, but the seeds make decent rootstock for some Annonas, and allow them to be planted in wet soils.

Our Java plum tree finally made a small crop at 27 years from seed. I think the three huge lily pilly trees nearby held it back. One they were removed, the Java plum responded.

I made more air layers of longan and white sapote. Years ago, I won a true cherimoya seedling at our raffle. I've kept it in a pot for fear of losing it to a freeze. When I pruned it recently, it answered by flowering! Seven in all, so far. As they open, I hand pollinate with its own pollen saved from older flowers. As of this writing, no fruits are safely set, so stay tuned.

New plantings: tomato, okra, corn



Typical harvest – photo Paul Zmoda

More information on the plant sale:

Volunteers are needed!!

Friday October 13th - Please arrive for 1:00pm to help set up our booth. We need help with unloading and inventory of incoming plants, setting up tables, installing the canopy and fence, as well as the Club's beautiful display and sign. If you are bringing plants for sale, this is a good time to set up your plants.

Saturday October 14th, and Sunday October 15th, during the sale hours, help is needed to assist in sales, answering questions, manning the new membership table, manning the display, and just chatting with customers.

Sunday October 15th, after the sale, help is needed to dismantle the set-up, load the trailer, inventory remaining plants, and clean up the area.



Please contact KC at email: kcgonzalez24@gmail.com with questions, or if you can help out in any way, and let her know what days and times you are available. You can also sign up at: <https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/10C0849A9A923A7F5C07-usfplant> or scan the QR code below:



Note: Members may bring fruiting plants that they have raised to the plant sale. If you are selling plants, you must plan on remaining at the sale to answer questions about your plants. Remember to please price your plants accordingly, as 10% of the sale price goes to the Club, and 20% to USF. These must be plants that you grew on your own (**no citrus**).

All plants must be healthy, no disease or insects, properly identified and labeled. Cultural information is very helpful to buyers.

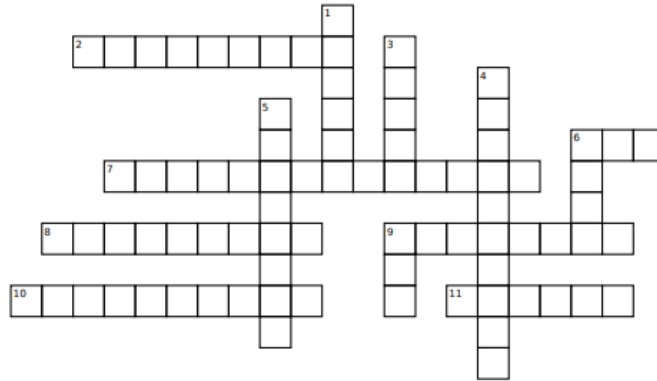
You may bring your plants Friday afternoon, or before the 9am opening time on Sat/Sun.

Please use the plant manifest included in this newsletter to list plants you are bringing.

After the sale, all remaining plants will be available to members who helped at the sale at a discounted price.

Note: Due to new regulations, there will be no juice sales this year.

Finger Limes by Dr. Manjul Dutt



Down:

1. The interior of the fruit resembles this item of food
3. Price in dollars that a single fruit could cost
4. Natural environment in which Finger Limes originated
5. The juice of the fruit is contained in these
6. Description of the taste of the fruit
9. Minimum number of trees needed to grow fruit

Across:

2. Continent of origin of Finger Limes
6. Number of years in which fruiting may begin
7. Finger Limes are resistant to this disease
8. Important that this part of the tree be suited for the growing location
9. Fertilizer that Dr. Dutt uses
10. Florida location of the UF/IFAS Citrus Research Center
11. This is much greater than the current availability of the fruit

We're publishing another fun puzzle this month!



The topic of the puzzle is Dr. Manjul Dutt's presentation on Finger Limes from the August meeting. You can find a review of his talk in the September newsletter. Complete the puzzle at your leisure, or work through it more quickly and enter our contest! The first two members to submit a correct solution will receive a Tampa Bay RFCI logo coffee mug. 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 our Treasurer, Susan McAveety, at 8621 Foxtail Court in Tampa, 33647. Be sure to include your name and phone number. Only one entry allowed per household. Contest ends October 15th. Winners will be contacted individually to arrange for prize pickup at one of our meetings.

∞ Club Notes ∞



Got an idea for a topic or a speaker? The link below is a Google Form for Speaker Requests for 2024. Or scan the QR Code for access the form. Either way, just fill it out with your ideas for topics and speakers.

<https://forms.gle/m3MBQfvLMADkjmW7A>

ALWAYS WANTED:

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 Tampa.Bay.RFCI@gmail.com

Submissions for the next newsletter due by: **October 22nd**.

News of interest provided by member WP Mitchell:

Pineapple Grown in Costa Rica Nominated for Global Award



The Del Monte Zero pineapple, grown exclusively in Costa Rica by Fresh Del Monte has become a finalist in the New Launch category of the 2023 World Sustainability Awards. “This pineapple is the world’s first to achieve carbon neutral certification,” noted Michael Calderon, a Del Monte spokesman. “The accolade signifies a harmonious equilibrium between emitted greenhouse gases and proactive endeavors, and constant monitoring of our transportation fleet’s emissions to minimize the carbon footprint”. Other areas contributing to the nomination showed the company has curtailed greenhouse gases by a whopping **22.64%**, purchased six new fuel-efficient transportation vessels and initiated renewable solar and wind energy installations in California and Costa Rica. (Source: TicoTimes)

∞ 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
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Dade City, FL 33525