

RFCI

August 2014

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

<http://www.rarefruit.org>

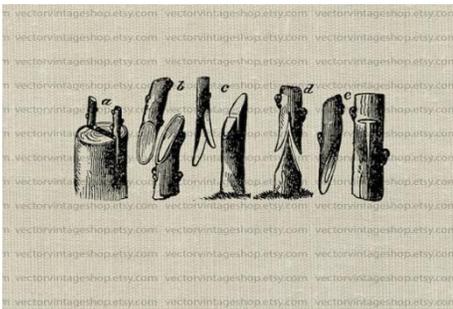
Tampa.Bay.RFCI@gmail.com

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

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

∞ Upcoming Programs and Events ∞

August 3rd - Change of date!!! Hands-on Propagation Instruction workshop. Varieties of mango, avocado and fig scions (budwood) **will** be available. Our Club experts will discuss grafting of mangoes and avocados. Be sure to bring your compatible scions and rootstock, if you have them available, to this workshop. If you want a certain plant variety, please bring 2 or more scions- 6 to 8 inches long, and the rootstock. Keep scions damp. Please remember, NO citrus.



Instruction will include propagation by:

- Grafting
- Layering
- Cuttings

September 14th: Chris Rollins on Fruits of South East Asia

October 11th and 12th: USF Plant Sale, no regular meeting.

November 9th: Frost protection by Charles Novak

December 14th: Holiday Social

∞ Welcome New Members ∞

Khalsa Tampa

Ooha Gudapati Brandon

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

☞ Citrus Greening ☞

Jamie D. Burro



Citrus greening is a major disease of citrus, with its impact being felt throughout the world, and affecting all citrus varieties. In Florida, citrus is a significant industry, and the economic impact is enormous. The disease has been around for some time, first being found in China in 1919, the Philippines in 1921, and Africa in 1937. However, it was 1966 before researchers realized that what they were seeing in all these varied geographic locations, was in fact the same disease.

Citrus greening, (Huanglongbing), or HLB for short is a gram negative bacterial disease. The vector for the bacteria is the Asian Citrus psyllid, first discovered in Florida in 1998. By 2005, it was seen in all southern states. Climate is not a factor, as both dry and humid climates are experiencing the disease.

There is no cure. The bacteria causes vascular damage which will eventually cause death of the tree in 3 - 5 years. The affected parts cannot be pruned away in an effort to save the tree. The disease is throughout the vascular system. Removal of the tree is the only end result. Failure to remove the tree will continue to allow the bugs to feed, and only contribute more to the problem. The disease is not spread by seed, tools, equipment, or contact. It IS spread by grafting and by moving infected plants to areas previously free of the disease, however. The insect can fly on its own for 1 mile, but can be carried farther by the wind.



The insects are quite virile, going from egg to adult in just 2 weeks, living up to 47 days, and having 10 generations per year. There are five nymph stages, with the nymphs always being found on new growth.

Symptoms of the disease include notched leaves, waxy secretions, blotchy and mottled leaves, asymmetrical coloring observed on both sides of the leaf. Usually, nutritional deficiencies will be observed through color change on one side of the leaf, so this clue could be very helpful in distinguishing the disease from other problems. Lopsided fruit, or fruits that are yellow at the stem also are indicators. A tree producing off-season bloom could be another clue.

There is not a lot homeowners can do. Providing excellent nutrition will help keep trees strong, but this will not cure the disease, although some vendors will try to make such claims. Non-systemic chemicals, such as horticultural oil, malathion, and carbaryl are potential aids. Systemic treatments, such as Imadacloprid, a soil drench can be used. All these must be used as the manufacturer specifies.



Organic treatments include neem, horticultural oils, and a new product, Kaolin, a clay product. Kaolin coats the tree, making it quite white, but making it difficult for the bugs to stay on the surface and feed.

Replanting of areas where affected trees have been removed can be done, just consider residual effects of any chemicals in the soil used to destroy any prior trees.

When purchasing new trees, be careful to choose trees that are tagged with an ISD tag, indicating treatment before being released for sale. The treatments will eventually wear off, so don't believe a seller that says a tree cannot ever get the disease. Dooryard citrus is a challenge against citrus greening, and trees are an expensive investment, so buy from reputable sources.

Some have noted how citrus grown in shadier locations, or the wild plants in the forest appear in much better health, and the reason for this is unknown, but it is believed they are still affected, possibly the symptoms are just not as apparent. Possibly there is a beneficial relationship with overstory trees, or mycorrhiza in the soil.



Research is always being done on how to fight the bugs, the disease, and if it's possible to create resistant varieties, but the bacteria cannot be culture grown, making progress very slow.

Members of the Rutaceae family, (Rue or citrus family of flowering plants), including ALL citrus varieties, white sapote, limeberry, orangeberry, orange jasmine (*murraya paniculata*), bael fruit, Wampee (*Clausena excavata*), and Chinese box orange (*severinia buxifolia*), are affected by this disease, and/or can act as hosts.

For more information, helpful photographs, information on testing, diagnostics, and what you can do, check out the following websites.

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com>

<http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/citrus/acpsyllid.htm>

www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/academics/faculty/brlansky/.../Citrus_Greening.pdf

<http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/greening/index.shtml>

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ch198>

The first Members' tailgate market at the July meeting went very well! The market added a rather festive flair before the meeting. There were plants and Paul Zmoda's homemade BBQ sauce. If you would like to join the market, here are the guidelines.



Rules:

- *You must be an active member in good standing.
- *Plants must be sold **prior** to the start of the 2:00pm meeting. You've got to get there early!
- *All activity must be done from your vehicle. Do not bring items up to the building or the raffle table to avoid confusion. Stay at your vehicle.
- *If you make a mess, please clean up.

∞ What's Happening ∞

by Paul Zmoda

One day a man stopped at Flatwoods Fruit Farm. He inquired if he could have the flower buds on our large dragonfruit cactus planting by our mailbox. He said he wanted to eat them. I told him that I grow them for the fruit, but gave him some cuttings so he could grow his own and sent him on his way.

I got to thinking about eating the buds...My research showed that they sell and eat the buds in Japan, but not much other information. So I picked one half-sized bud and boiled it along with some corn I was cooking. Within ten minutes it was served and I tried it. I must say it was pretty good, sort of like a mild mix of asparagus and string beans. I never would have thought to eat dragonfruit flower buds if not for my visitor, who may have been from Africa.



I harvested twenty four pounds of wild chickasaw plums from just one of our trees! These very tart fruits were boiled, strained through a sieve and simmered with brown sugar, molasses and spices until thickened. What we now have is a tangy, fruit barbeque sauce that is excellent on grilled meats, especially pork.

I also began harvesting clusters of our elderberries as they completely ripen. Into the freezer they go until I have enough to make something out of them: wine, pies, syrup - not sure yet.

We ate three "Glenn" mangoes from our small tree, purchased at the RFCI sale at USF in 2012 - SO GOOD!

Happy birthday George Riegler.

New plantings: Okinawa spinach, okras, sweet potato, moringa, and canistel.



Does anyone know of a really great place to hold a meeting?
Possibly a church, educational facility, lodge, hall, etc.

The desired criteria are:

The room can hold 100-150 people.

Tables and chairs for that many people.

Kitchen area.

Central Tampa Bay area location, possibly near an interstate.

Contact our Club President Thom Scott at unclethom0@lycos.com
or 813-933-1144

☞ Opportunity to Volunteer Time and Fruit ☜

Here is a letter from the representative of St. Pete Abundance. The group is seeking fruit and volunteers to help their organization. If you can help, please contact her below.

My name is Amanda Hagood and I represent a new community group called St. Pete Abundance. We work with homeowners in Pinellas County to glean fruits from unharvested trees and deliver the produce to the St. Pete Free Clinic. We're a fairly new organization, though we've managed to gather nearly 1000 lbs of fruit through the handful of gleanings we have scheduled throughout the past year, and we are looking right now to expand our base of "volunteer" trees. We are also hoping to forge relationships with other organizations--such as the Rare Fruit Council--to help arrange opportunities for the public to learn how to care for their trees.



Here is the link to our website, which has lots of details about who we are and what we do: <http://www.saintpeteabundance.org>.

What I'm wondering, then, is if you can give me some sense of how I might reach out to various people and groups you may work with to help us spread the call for "volunteer" trees. (We would certainly also appreciate volunteers to put in hours helping us glean, however at the moment we have lots of volunteers, but typically not enough trees). We are especially interested in arranging opportunities to give our 5-10 minute presentation about St. Pete Abundance.

Thanks so much! Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information about SPA. I can be reached at [\(205\)-936-3372](tel:205-936-3372).

*Regards,
Amanda Hagood*

☞ Seed Table ☜

The seed chairman has procured 2,750 packets of many various seeds from Weeks Seed Co., a southern provider of seeds located in North Carolina. The seed table will be offering these seeds to active members free of charge, while they last. So, be sure to stop by the seed table to get your free seeds for your fall and winter garden. The variety is amazing, all kinds of fruits and vegetables, record size varieties, ones perfect for container growing, plenty for fall and winter crops.



Papaya Bruschetta

1 papaya
 5 plum tomatoes, diced
 ½ red onion, diced
 ½ red bell pepper, seeded, diced
 ¼ cup chopped fresh basil leaves
 2 green onions, chopped
 2 tablespoons white sugar
 ¼ cup red wine vinegar
 ¼ cup vegetable oil
 ½ teaspoon mustard powder
 1 French baguette, sliced

Cut papaya in half, remove seeds. Reserve 2 tablespoons of seeds for dressing. Peel and dice papaya, place in medium bowl. Add tomatoes, red onion, red pepper, and basil and set aside. In food processor or blender, combine the papaya seeds, sugar, wine vinegar, oil, mustard and green onions. Process until smooth and thick, and most of the seeds have broken up. Pour over the papaya mixture and stir to coat all of the ingredients. Serve with the sliced baguette.

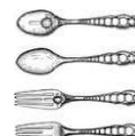
Recipe by ljo on <http://allrecipes.com>



∞ July 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 receive a ticket for the plant raffle.



Name	Item	Name	Item
Scott	Homegrown bananas strawberries	Davies	Meatballs, ziti
Payne	Spaghetti	Lavalette	Potato salad
Aguire	Apple pie	Coronel	Bibingka
McAveety	Banana bread	Lohn	Chips and salsa
Lee	Pear cobbler	Black	Potato salad
Telega	Spaghetti casserole	Feist	Cookies, candy
Burke	Lemon cake	Badger	Hawaiian wedding cake
Newcombe	Carambola salad	Dexter	Chive potatoes
Clarke	Baked chicken, turkey taco bake	Clarke	Coconut macaroons
Ferreira	Jackfruit, sweet potato cassarole	Levesque	Donuts
Rubenstein	Noodle kugel	Zmoda	Starfruit wine
Whitfield	Spinach salad		



∞ July Plant Exchange ∞



If you win a plant in the raffle, please remember to sign the sheet when picking up your plants.

Plant	Donor	Winner
Banana pisang radja	Coronel	Sakuta
Banana pisang radja	Coronel	Provencher
Rosemary	Scott	
Cherry of rio grande	Scott	Conroy
Cuban oregano	Scott	Ferreira
Orangeberry	Musgrave	
Spinach	Musgrave	
Dragonfruit	Musgrave	
Aloe	Stark	Black
Yellow passionfruit	Stark	
Chaya	Stark	McAveety
Monstera deliciosa	Stark	Ferreira
Apple cactus	Provencher	
Luffa gourd	Provencher	
Dragonfruit	Gerstein	Black
Red pepper	Payne	
Red papaya	Clarke	
Mangosteen	Orr	
Pkm-1 moringa	Starnes	
Loquat	Levesque	

∞ Local Events ∞

Sept. 13 9:30 - 4:30. Jackfruit Festival. Celebrate this most intriguing tropical fruit, speakers, tasting, cooking, growing, plants for sale. \$25 for adults. Fairchild Tropical Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Rd, Miami (305) 667-1651 www.fairchildgarden.org

Sept. 20 Honey Tasting. USF Botanic Garden 12210 Pine Dr., Tampa 813-974-2329 <http://gardens.usf.edu>



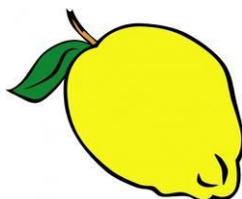
Notes

If you would like to share photographs, recipes, experiences with fruits you are growing, or anything fruit related, or ask a Club expert a question, submit material to the editor at bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com. When space is available, items will be put into the newsletter.

Available: Colchicine medicine, for treatment of gout. A long used natural treatment for this condition. Contact Charles Novak at charles.novak@gmail.com or call 813-754-1399.

Wanted: 1 gallon pots and larger. Contact Charles Novak at charles.novak@gmail.com or call 813-754-1399.

Looking for horseradish plants/roots. Please contact Luba Peretiako at 727-522-3177



Tampa Bay RFCI
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