



RFCI

February 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 ∞



February 6th – 17th Florida State Fair - No regular meeting.

The Citrus Celebration will be on February 9th. Anyone who has citrus fruits, or knows someone willing to share their fruit at the fair, let us know. Last year we displayed 25-30 varieties for fair goers to sample. Some were old favorites, and some of these were not even available to the public yet.

If you come to help out with the fair, you will need passes to get in. Please arrive at gate 2 at 8:00am to help cut fruit, and get the display area ready for the public. If you put in at least 2 hours of time, you will get fair tickets to enjoy the rest of the Fair.

If you want juice, please bring a bottle labeled on all sides with your name, and give the bottle directly to Paul Branesky to receive your juice.



∞ Welcome New Members ∞

Jordan Pinder Tampa

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

∞ Selecting Fruits to Grow Based on Climate and Climate Change ∞
with
Dr. Jose Chaparro



Dr. Chaparro (left) and Club president Fred Engelbrecht (photo George Campani)

At January's meeting, Dr. Jose Chaparro provided members with very interesting and enlightening information on selecting fruits to grow based on climate, and how climate change is having an impact on these choices.

Dr. Chaparro is originally from Puerto Rico, and has an extensive career in breeding citrus, peaches, avocados, and studying how climate affects fruit growing for both the backyard grower and the professional.

In Florida, we often grow plants at the edge of their range, so for the best success certain conditions must be considered.

Some of the factors affecting what fruits growers choose are:

- Climate and changes in climate
- Pests and pathogens
- Consumer preferences
- Economics

Fruit selection guidelines:

Grow fruits and varieties of fruits from climates similar to Florida. Mediterranean climates, for example are dry in summer and wetter in winter, the very opposite of Florida, so success is less likely.

Do not select fruits that require a stable climate. Florida's climate varies too much.

Do not select fruits that grow naturally at high elevations, and expect them to grow at Florida's low elevations.

Select fruits that require soil types that are similar to Florida's.

In other words, best choices for success are those with similar natural climate, temperature, elevation, and soil.

The Koppen Geiger Climate Classification is an excellent resource to use when considering trying to grow fruits from different corners of the world. The maps online are interactive, and provide a great deal of information. Use this map to help decide whether a particular choice will be a good choice for your area. Poorer matches to climate will be more likely to fail, difficult to propagate, and too costly to produce. (see page four)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/K%C3%B6ppen_climate_classification#/media/File:K%C3%B6ppen-Geiger_Climate_Classification_Map.png

A changing climate:

For the last 7 years, our area is getting approximately 100 less chill hours per winter season than have been recorded historically. This loss has a critical impact on the many fruits that require a certain amount of cool to be able to fruit. Our selections of varieties must now require as few chill hours as possible. (A chill hour is generally defined as being between 32 degrees and 45 degrees).

Keep in mind:

- Varieties that performed well in the past may not perform as well today.
- Plants are not adaptable to changes in climate, such as reduced chill hours, but their seeds are.
- Plums and sweet cherries really do not have reliable low chill varieties for use below I-10 at this time.
- Flordaglow, a white flesh peach requires less than 100 chill hours, and is a good choice for the Tampa area.

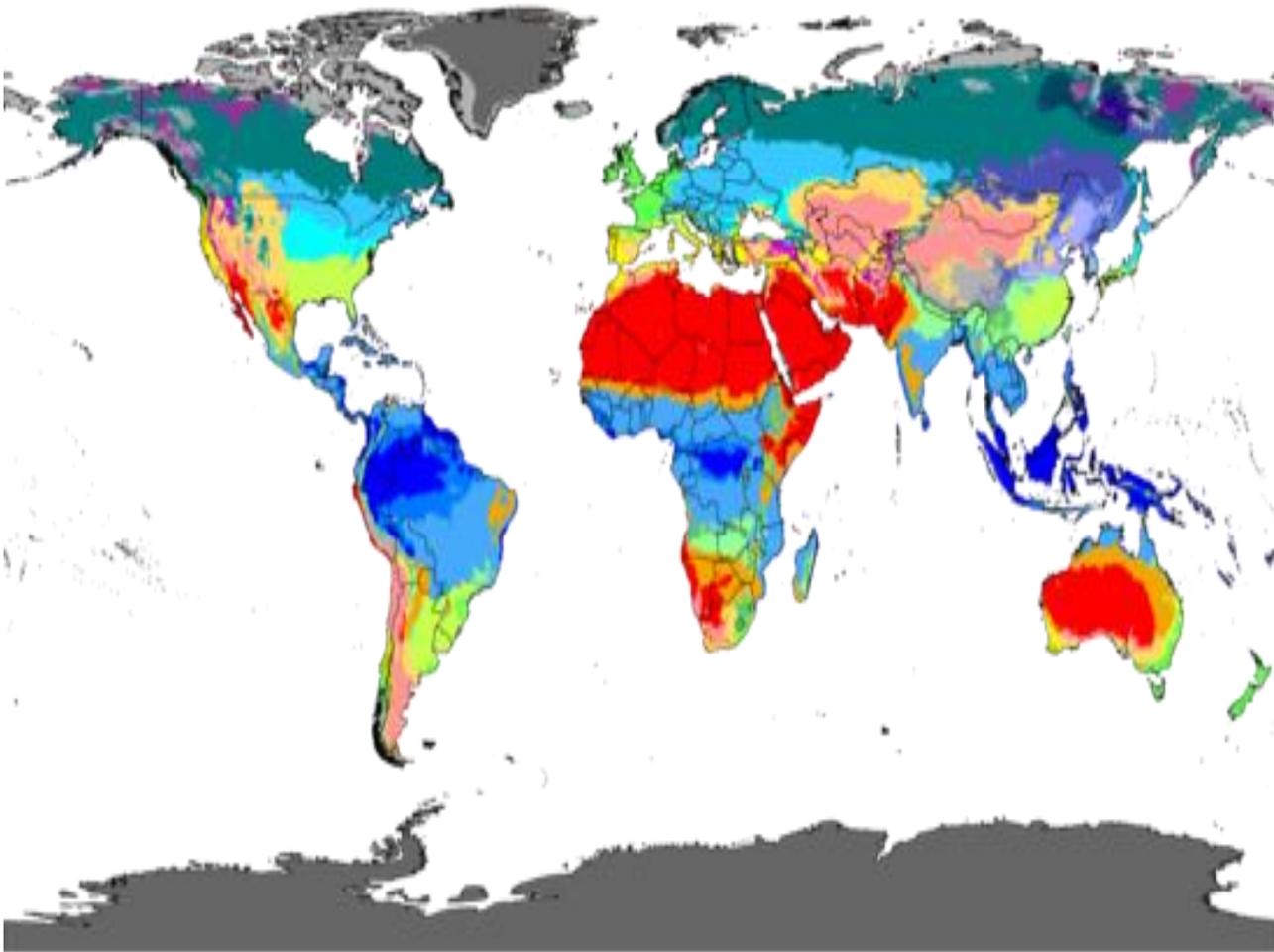
Impacts of climate change:

- Reduced bloom
- Inconsistent cropping
- Reduced fruit set and fruit size
- Altered fruit shape
- More pathogens and pests, as there is insufficient cold to kill them off
- Unpredictable harvest dates

To contact Dr. Jose Chaparro

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 Gainesville, Fl 32611
 352-273-4821
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Köppen-Geiger climate classification map (1980-2016)



Source: Beck et al.: Present and future Köppen-Geiger climate classification maps at 1-km resolution, Scientific Data 5:180214, doi:10.1038/sdata.2018.214 (2018)

Local Events

March 14th, 8am to 3pm – Palma Sola Botanic Park’s Annual Spring Plants and More Sale - 9800 17th Ave. NW, Bradenton, FL 34209

February 18th – 3:30 to 4:30pm – Soil testing workshop at the Charles J. Fendig Public Library 3909 W. Neptune St., Tampa, Florida 33629

☞ What's Happening ☜

by Paul Zmoda

Avocados are pushing their flower buds as is the big longan tree which should have a huge crop this year if we don't get a freeze. I spotted at least six jackfruits growing fast among the non-fruiting male flowers.

I can't believe how many Surinam cherry (*Eugenia uniflora*) flowers have opened on both of our trees. The previous crop is ripening at the same time.





❧ January Plant Raffle ❧



Here is sampling from the plant raffle table. Thank you to everyone who brought in plants to share at the raffle.

Plant	Donor	Winner
Papaya, passionfruit	Soylu	
Cranberry hibiscus	Bowman	
Carambola	Luba	
Mango for rootstock	Black	
Avocado	Rodriguez	
Dwarf Orinoco banana	Premraj	
Orange berry	Provencher	
Blue tuna edible cactus	Provencher	
Madagascar olive	Provencher	
Garlic chives	Vaccaro	



❧ January Tasting Table ❧



This is a sampling of the wonderful offerings at the buffet 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
Gutierrez	Rice with beans	Soylu	Dried fruits and nuts
Debra	Cookies	Dunn	Cookies
Male	Cake	Male-basil	Key lime pie
Sweet	Pulled pork and rolls	Johnston	Cherry cobbler
Quinby	Strawberries	Lohn	Oranges
Yonn	Carambola pie	Te	Katuk bean tomato
Krotz	Pulled pork sliders	Clarke	Turkey chili, pumpkin pie, fish dip
Dickey	Salad and pie	Hartzler	Chicken salad sandwiches
Lavalette	Au gratin potatoes	Farrington	Lemon poppy seed cake
Stein	Chocolate banana muffins	Whitfield	Potato chips
Coronel	Black beans, rice, cheese	Deming	Passionfruit hazel maple loaf

For more information about the Florida State Fair Visit:

floridastatefair.com

The fair is located at the junction of Rte 301 and Rte 4
4800 US-301, Tampa, FL 33610

(800) 345-3247

XJQM+WR Tampa, Florida



∞ Club Notes ∞

Send in your submissions for the newsletter, pictures, notes of interest, events, tips, recipes, questions, etc. - please send them to bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com
Submissions for the next newsletter due by: **January 22nd**.

∞ 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, 39320 North Ave., Zephyrhills, FL 33542.

RENEWING MEMBERS

Send check or money order for \$20 made out to Tampa Bay RFCI and mail to:
Tampa Bay RFCI, 39320 North Ave., Zephyrhills, FL 33542.



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
39320 North Ave.
Zephyrhills, FL 33542