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RFCI

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

May 2020

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

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 May. Due to the current Covid-19 situation, the Club meeting for May has been cancelled.



Please watch the Club website and newsletter for details concerning future meetings. The situation will be assessed again in June.

We sincerely hope all our members and their families are both safe and healthy.

The Manatee Rare Fruit Council's Plant sale in May might also be cancelled. Hopefully we will know more next newsletter. This is a popular event for anyone looking for fruit trees.

Finding places to visit during these times is a real challenge:

As of this writing, USF botanic gardens are closed to the public, as well as all events cancelled.

Sunken gardens St. Petersburg closed.

Florida Botanical Gardens 12520 Ulmerton Rd. Largo, FL 33774 (727) 582-2100 is still open - enjoy not only the tropical fruit garden, but many other demonstration gardens designed to inspire you. Free, donations appreciated.

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

No rain here at all in March. Our well is getting used often, especially on potted plants which dry out so quickly.

Two annonas in containers leafed out for the growing season but no flowers yet. The first one, *A. cherimola*, could be tricky to fruit here since it is native to South American mountains. I did it once so I am confident. The second one, *A. purpurea*, is said to be good in containers and to fruit at one to two years. Mine is six years and I'm still waiting.

Thanks to several blooming together, we are getting first fruits on some mayhaws. They are like tiny, red apples and taste very similar. They are claimed to make outstanding jelly.

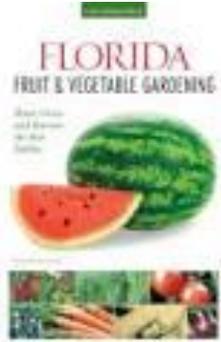
A few jackfruits hanging are well over a pound or two so far.



Mayhaws, *Crateagus aestivalis* – photo Paul Zmoda

New plantings – physalis, okra and pigeon peas

Here are some reading suggestions about fruits and Florida gardening: If anyone has a favorite book they would like to have mentioned in the newsletter, please submit the information to the editor.



Florida Fruit & Vegetable Gardening: Plant, Grow, and Harvest the Best Edibles

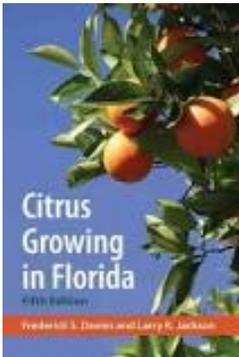
Book by Bob Bowden

Plant, grow, and harvest the best edibles for your garden! Florida Fruit & Vegetable Gardening is an easy-to-use guide to growing edibles in the Sunshine State.

Citrus Growing in Florida

Book by Frederick Stanley Davies and Larry Keith Jackson

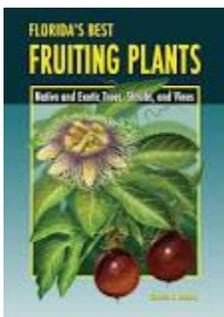
"An excellent book that is needed by all who are interested in growing citrus in Florida or elsewhere."--

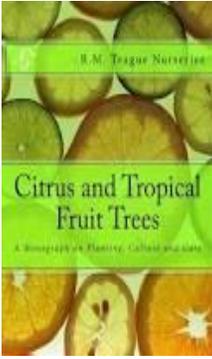


Florida's Best Fruiting Plants: Native and Exotic Trees, Shrubs, ...

Book by Charles R Boning

A comprehensive guide to fruit-bearing plants that thrive in the Florida environment. Discusses exotics and native species, familiar plants and dozens of rare and obscure plants.

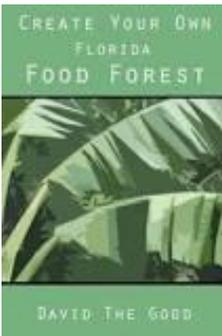




Citrus and Tropical Fruit Trees: A Monograph on ...

Book by R. M. Teague Nurseries

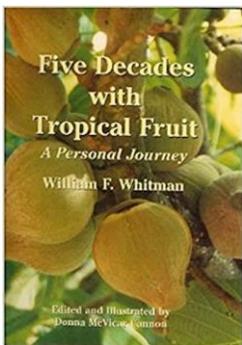
This special re-print edition of R.M. Teague Nursery's book "Citrus and Tropical Fruit Trees" is a guide to growing and managing citrus and tropical fruit trees of varying kinds. Written in 1921, this classic text provides insight into how to successfully grow citrus and tropical fruits.



Create Your Own Florida Food Forest

Book by CREATESPACE INDEPENDENT PUB and David Good

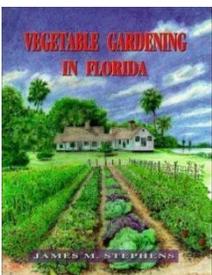
If you've been fighting with your Florida garden, you're doing it wrong! Florida wants to be covered in forest, not grass and annuals. Picture yourself strolling through a lush and tame jungle loaded with sweet fruit, vegetables, roots, medicinal herbs, flowers and darting butterflies.



Five Decades with Tropical Fruit: A Personal Journey

Book by William Francis Whitman Jr.

Five Decades with Tropical Fruit is the personal journey of one unique and dedicated man, William Francis Whitman. This book contains his collected papers and hundreds of photographs extending back to when he got the tropical fruit "bug" on a 1947 trek to Tahiti.



Vegetable Gardening in Florida by James M. Stephens

With full-color photographs and detailed expert advice, this affordable paperback describes how to grow abundant vegetables and edible herbs in gardens anywhere in Florida.

This is a good opportunity to spend time at home doing that yard or garden project that maybe you've been putting off.

And, if you are shopping for that special plant, here are a few places that ship plants. You can peruse their website and find something new. Some places may have hours for public visits, but call first.



Hawkins Corner Nursery

Richard Skinner

(813) 752-4938

3611 James L. Redman Parkway, Plant City

Family owned, wide variety of fruit trees, crape myrtle – no shipping

<http://www.hawkinscornernursery.com/>



Harris Citrus

10721 County Rd. 39

Lithia, Fl 33547

813-684-1654

Family owned; all kinds of citrus varieties available

<https://www.harriscitrus.com/>



Top Tropicals Nursery
 13890 Orange River Blvd, Ft Myers, FL 33905.
 Amazing collection of tropical fruits, many mangoes
 Toll-free: [1-866-897-7957](tel:1-866-897-7957)
<https://toptropicals.com/>

Jene's Tropicals
 6831 Central Ave, St Petersburg, FL 33710
 727-344-1668
 All kinds of tropical fruits, much more
<https://www.jenestropicals.com>



Just Fruits and Exotics
 30 Saint Frances Street, Crawfordville, FL 32327
 (850) 926-5644
 Fantastic listings for hardier and low chill varieties of
 fruits
 Email: info@justfruitsandexotics.com
 Facebook: facebook.com/justfruit

www.justfruitsandexotics.com

Florida Hill Nursery
 P.O. Box 530318
 Debary, FL 32753 Many fruits, impressive dragon
 fruit listings
<https://www.floridahillnursery.com/>



Mulberry Pie

By WIFE228 Allrecipes.com

It's spring, and the easy to grow mulberry is producing plenty of fruit. This easy pie is one tasty way to use the fruit.



3 cups of mulberries
 1 ¼ cups of sugar
 ¼ cup all-purpose flour
 1 pastry pie crust for a 9" double crust pie – either homemade or premade
 2 tablespoons butter
 1 tablespoon milk

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

In a large bowl, mix berries with sugar and flour. Place mixture into the bottom pie crust. Dot with butter, then cover with top pie crust. Crimp edges, cut slits in upper crust, brush with milk. Let pie rest in refrigerator for 30 minutes.

Bake pie in preheated oven for 15 minutes. Lower oven temperature to 350 degrees. And bake for additional 30 minutes. Remove pie from oven and let sit on wire rack until cool.

Serve alone or with ice cream.

∞ 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: **May 22nd**.

Note: The election of the new board members will be rescheduled when regular meetings resume.

∞ 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

Please note as of March 1st, please send memberships to the new address above. We have moved!



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.
Dade City, FL 33525