



COLLIER FRUIT GROWERS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2016



Our February 8th speaker is Steve Cucura of Fruitscapes Nursery in Bokeelia. He is our tree sale vendor. His nursery was recently described by Steve Brady as the best looking nursery in south Florida. With a chickee hut fruit and organic vegetable stand and well maintained orchard for scion stock and picking, it is well worth the trip. There are often orchids, bromeliads and baking goodies available at the chickee hut. In preparation for our February 20th tree sale, he will be giving us a survey of the best tropical fruit trees for Southwest Florida.

Fruitscapes Nursery has just won the Martha Stewart Living Magazine 2015 American Made Award for excellence in their field.

<http://www.marthastewart.com/americanmade/nominee/140668/honorees/pine-island-tropicalsfruitscapes>

The meeting starts at 7:30 pm at the Community Center, 4701 Golden Gate Parkway in Golden Gate City. The tasting table opens at 7:00 pm.

BURDS' NEST OF INFORMATION THIS and THAT FOR FEBRUARY



1. The citrus trees are pushing new growth. Asian citrus phyllid calls this PARTY TIME! Let's be party poopers and spray them with a mixture of Farm Soap 1 oz per gallon together with Minor Elements (vitamins for the tree). Follow the directions on the bottle. **Spray early in the morning or late afternoon.** Ten days – 2 weeks later, spray again. **Except** ½ oz per gallon of the Farm Soap and same amount of the Minor Elements. Why is this done? To repel the phyllids and feed the tree through the leaves.

Think about fertilizing the citrus – 8-2-8 or 6-4-4. If the open bag is about a year old, it will have lost some of its nitrogen potency.

2. Resist planting young trees until after mid-February. Even then, check long range forecasts. In the past, there have been frosts even at the end of February.

There is still time early to mid-February to prune back the peaches, grapes, nectarines, and plums.

This cold weather should help to bring mangos and other fruit trees to flower. As a helpful preventative for anthranose & powdery mildew: On the mangos, spray (NOW BEFORE THE FLOWERS) with wettable sulphur if you have it. Or the farm soap is better than nothing. When the spike opens to the flower, don't forget to hang the bottle in the tree to attract the flies.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

I encountered this recipe in Linda Gassenheimer's Keys Cuisine cookbook. It may seem a bit unusual but a ripe mamey has a texture similar to an avocado, yet does not oxidize. Thus, making it a great substitute in a guacamole. Get the conversation started by serving it at your next party!

recipe:

Mamey Guacamole

Submitted by Roberta Taylor



- 1 medium ripe mamey
- 2 Tbsp. red wine vinegar
- 1 large tomato
- 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- ½ medium onion
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- ½ jalapeno pepper

Cut the mamey in half and scoop out the pulp. Remove the stem and quarter the tomato. Chop the onion in the bowl of a food processor or by hand. Add the mamey, tomato and jalapeno to the onion and chop in the food processor or by hand. Add the remaining ingredients. Taste for seasoning, adding more vinegar or Worcestershire as needed. Serve as a dip with tortilla chips.

CLUB NOTES



Cottonseed Meal for Fertilizer?

High-nitrogen content (6-2-2) cottonseed meal has long been employed as an organic fertilizer that lowers the pH of soil, poses little danger of burning plants, and provides nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium as well as many minor plant food elements. It is cheap and readily available. In some states, however, cottonseed meal is not allowed in a certified organic operation which require that cottonseed meal be pesticide free, which is difficult to demonstrate. Though cotton is a heavily sprayed crop, conventionally grown, pesticide-free meal is available on the market. Cottonseed meal may contain substantial pesticide residues and it is recommended it be composted before use to break down toxic residues. (Cotton gin trash, containing seed hulls, is recognized as potentially more contaminated than the seed meal, because many residues are in the hull.)

The conventional U.S. cotton industry says that "if there is any trace of residue [on cottonseed meal] it is minuscule and far below levels to harm anyone... Essentially the only crop protection products used on cotton are used before boll opening. Only harvest aid products are applied after boll opening and these products are contact leaf defoliants, not systemic. In addition, cotton fiber and cottonseed hulls would cover and protect the cottonseed meal from any crop protection product exposure."

Note that this statement would not be true for genetically engineered cotton, which expresses the gene for the *Bacillus thuringiensis* bacterial toxin in all plant parts.



OUR FEBRUARY TROPICAL FRUIT TREE SALE IS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH AT FREEDOM PARK, 9 AM TO 2 PM. COME EARLY TO HELP AND LEARN.



CITRUS UPDATE NOTES FROM DANNY BLANK'S JANUARY TALK: HOMEOWNER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CITRUS CARE

- Order improved tolerant rootstock (Phillip Rucks Nursery) available in 2017 if ordered now
- Order more tolerant scion (e.g. "Temple" "SugarBelle", Navel orange, "Duncan" grapefruit
- Avoid common oranges and grapefruits.

- Use generous amounts of compost, fertilizer and especially micronutrients (soil and foliar). Focus on optimum tree and soil health.
- Use elemental sulfur to lower PH
- Use very consistent watering (lower rates but more frequently)
- Consider bagging young trees with netting
- Mulch -- e.g. annual March application of wood chips 2" to 3" thick or hay 8" to 12"

**Collier Fruit Growers, Inc.
Saturday, February 20, 2016**

FRUIT TREE SALE

9:00am - 2:00pm

**AT FREEDOM PARK
1515 GOLDEN GATE PARKWAY
NAPLES**



Collier Fruit Growers Inc.
c/o Jan-Marie Etzel
8768 Ibis Cove Circle
Naples, FL 34119

FEBRUARY 2016

FRUIT NEWS

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 8, 2016

The Collier Fruit Growers Inc. (CFG) is an active organization dedicated to inform, educate and advise its members as well as the public, as to the propagation of the many varieties of fruits that can be grown in Collier County. The CFG is also actively engaged in the distribution of the many commonly grown fruits, as well as the rare tropical and subtropical fruits grown throughout the world. CFG encourages its members to extend their cultivation by providing a basis for researching and producing new cultivars and hybrids, whenever possible. CFG functions without regard to race, color or national origin.

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

2016 CFG BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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