



COLLIER FRUIT GROWERS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2015



Our September speaker is Dr. Jonathan H. Crane

Dr. Crane administers the Tropical Fruit Crop Management Program at the Tropical Research Educational Center in Homestead, FL. This program strives to provide information and educational programs for Florida's commercial tropical fruit producers, undergraduate and graduate students, and for urban residents with an interest in tropical fruit crops. This is accomplished through the statewide Extension Program and an applied research program and graduate teaching. He has recently returned from a trip to Borneo and prepared research on the effect of Laurel Wilt on Avocados. He is the top UF extension fruit tree researcher.

NEXT MEETING:

**September 21st at the Golden Gate Community Center
4701 Golden Gate Parkway
7:00 pm tasting table and 7:30 pm meeting/program.**

BURDS' NEST OF INFORMATION

THIS and THAT FOR SEPTEMBER:

MANGOS

If you haven't already fertilized your mango trees, NOW is the time, either 0-0-22 or 0-0-18, **selective** pruning to maintain the recommended height of 10ft if the tree is 'hatracked' it will struggle to have fruit next year.

LYCHEES

Your last **nitrogen** fertilizing on lychees & longans should be **before** the end of this month (September): **8-2-8 or 10-2-10 or 6-4-6**

CITRUS

Remember farm soap & micro nutrients on the citrus trees to fight the psyllids/ greening. Also don't forget to fertilize the citrus – same fertilizer used on lychees.

PERSIMMONS are starting to ripen! YEA YEA!



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

When our dragonfruit cacti produced several of these magnificent fruits this month, I started my search on how to use them. Their magenta exteriors are so attractive that I, at first, I just sliced them in half, used a melon baller to scoop out the flesh and combined it with other fruits and refilled the bowls made by removing the flesh. I then found this recipe by Christine Arel on www.nogogisnoglory.com. This light, delicious meal is perfect for the summer.

recipe:



MAHI MAHI WITH DRAGONFRUIT PINEAPPLE SALSA

Submitted by Roberta Taylor

INGREDIENTS

- 4 - 5-6 oz. Mahi Mahi fillets
- ¼ tsp. sea salt + more for sprinkling on fish
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 lime (1 tsp. zest + 1 Tbsp. lime juice)
- 1 cup fresh pineapple flesh, chopped into small cubes
- 1 medium sized dragon fruit, cut in half lengthwise,
removed from skin and cubed
- 2 Tbsp. fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1 Tbsp. jalapeno pepper, diced

Preheat the oven to 400 °F and prepare a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Wash fillets and pat dry. Sprinkle both sides of the fillets with salt and pepper. Sprinkle the top side of the fillets with the lime zest, lightly pressing into the fish.

Arrange fillets on the baking sheet, and bake in the center rack for 15 minutes until done and flakes easily. When done, remove from the baking sheet immediately.

While the fish is baking, prepare the salsa. In a bowl, combine the pineapple, dragonfruit, cilantro, jalapeño, and ¼ teaspoon of sea salt. Serve on top or alongside.

Serves 4.

CLUB NOTES



M-Pede Soap available: Dr. Steve Brady recommended M-Pede Soap for fruit tree spray. CFG has a large bulk container and anyone interested in purchasing small amounts (2 ounces makes 1 gallon of spray) should contact VP Rodger Taylor. M-Pede Insecticide-Miticide-Fungicide is a natural, safe, insecticide, miticide, and fungicide that provides excellent contact control of various soft bodied insects, mites, and powdery mildew throughout their life cycles. NOP compliant and OMRI certified (Organic).



Fall Fruit Tree Sale date is November 21, 2015 at Freedom Park. We will have over 500 trees that need to be the future fruit production of Collier County.



October 19 meeting will be about Mycelium: The Digestive System of Plants with Mycologist Ben Dion of the Southwest Florida Mycology Society. Mushroom Kits will be available.



November 16 meeting will be a presentation on Integrated Pest Management with Marc Gingras of Calusa Palms Nursery and Naples Botanical Garden.



Every Thursday morning at 9:00 am, members meet at the nursery at 8200 Immokalee Road to graft, plant, weed, spray and learn.



Companion Plants for Fruit Trees: Companion plants encourage natural processes that benefit overall health and vitality of fruit trees. This means less work lugging around sprayers, buying fertilizer, spreading compost and worrying about pollination. Here are 5 important roles companion plants play in the grove:



Living Mulches produce large quantities of organic matter that can be cut back to decompose around tree bases, enriching the soil.



Dynamic Accumulators have long taproots that bring up minerals from deep subsoil. Cut foliage through the season to break down around trees, creating dark, nutrient-dense soil.



Nitrogen-Fixers transform nitrogen from the air to the soil where it can be absorbed by tree roots.



Beneficial Insect Accumulators contain nectar sought by predatory insects that feed on fruit tree pests. BIA also attract pollinators.



Pest Confusers have bitter aromas that deter and confuse insect pests from eating fruit. Pigeon Pea, Ice Cream Bean, Perennial Peanut, Spanish Needle, Mimosa are examples.

Collier Fruit Growers Inc.
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FRUIT NEWS

**FUTURE MEETING:
October 19th, November 16th, and Fall Tree Sale November 21st**

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!

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**VISIT US AT:
www.collierfruit.org**

