COLLIER FRUIT GROWERS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2016

Our next meeting is Monday, September 19th with our speaker, **Dr. Jonathan Crane**, professor and associate center director, Department of Horticultural Sciences, University of Florida, Tropical Research and Education Center, Homestead, FL. Dr. Crane will update us on the latest research on the fate of our Avocado due to the advance of Laurel Wilt Disease. Dr. Crane is considered the authority on the subject of this disease that is seriously threatening the future of avocado production in our area. Laurel Wilt has been detected in our area having long been present in the Miami-Dade area. The USDA station is in the process of moving its entire avocado collection out of the area due to the advance of this disease. If you grow or are considering growing avocados this is a must attend event.

Laurel Wilt Disease Threatens Avocado Trees in Florida (adapted from Wikipedia) **Laurel wilt**, also called **laurel wilt disease**, is a vascular disease caused by the fungus *Raffaelea lauricola*, which is transmitted by the invasive redbay ambrosia beetle, *Xyleborus glabratus*. The disease affects and kills members of the laurel family. The avocado is perhaps the most commercially valuable plant affected by laurel wilt.

Laurel wilt has been found in South Carolina, North Carolina,[4] Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and notably in Florida, where it has reached as far south as Miami-Dade County and as far west as Bay County.[5] The redbay ambrosia beetle was detected in Savannah, Georgia's Port Went-worth area in spring 2002; however, it is likely to have been established in the area prior to 2002 when the three adult specimens were trapped at the port. The beetle likely entered the country in solid wood packing material with cargo that was imported at Port Wentworth. Redbay trees began dying in Georgia and South Carolina near the Savannah area in 2003. By early 2005, officials with the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC), South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC), and USDA Forest Service began to suspect the newly discovered ambrosia beetle was associated with this mortality.

The redbay (*Persea borbonia*), a tree particularly abundant in maritime forests of Georgia, South Carolina and Florida, has been the primary species affected by the wilt. (see photo references on page 3)

The state's avocado crop earns about $65 million wholesale each year, with commercial avocados growing on 7,500 acres (30 km^2) mostly in Miami-Dade County. Avocado represents the second-largest fruit crop in Florida, after citrus.

In 2007, an avocado tree near Jacksonville, FL was found showing symptoms of laurel wilt, and the laurel wilt fungus was confirmed to be present in the tree. Field and laboratory observations have since confirmed that the redbay ambrosia beetle will infest avocado trees, although there may be some variation in how susceptible different avocado cultivars are to the laurel wilt fungus. In 2011, laurel wilt-infected trees were detected in Miami-Dade County, near areas of commercial avocado groves. Avocado groves in the area are being closely monitored for the presence of the redbay ambrosia beetle and incidence of laurel wilt disease.

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.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH:

I was searching for a dessert recipe that used mangoes and was easy to make during these hot summer months. I found this recipe at www.the littleepicurean.com. It is very easy to assemble with no need to heat up the oven. The recipe is popular in the Philippines and reminiscent of those icebox cakes your mom might have made in the 50's and 60's. Champagne mangoes (atauflo) were recommended for this recipe, but any variety would be delicious. —- Roberta

recipe:

MANGO ROYALE (FILIPINO ICEBOX CAKE)

15-18 graham crackers
3 cups ripe mangoes, peeled and diced
1 ¾ cups heavy cream, chilled
¾ cup sweetened condensed milk

Line a 9" square baking pan with parchment paper along bottom and sides to allow easy cake removal. Line bottom of pan with graham crackers. Cut crackers as necessary to fit pan.

In a chilled bowl, whip heavy cream to soft peaks. Continue to whip while slowly adding sweetened condensed milk. Whip to firm peaks.

Spread 1/3 of whipped cream over crackers. Top with 1 cup of diced mango. Place another layer of crackers over mango, top with cream and mango again. Repeat.

Cover with plastic wrap and chill at least 4 hours or overnight.

Once chilled, use parchment paper to lift Mango Royale out of the pan. Slice and serve.

Enjoy!

MAIN ARTICLE (PAGE 1) PHOTO REFERENCES

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 and longans should be **before** the end of September. You can use either **8-2-8, 10-2-10, or 6-4-6.**

CITRUS – Remember that farm soap & micro nutrients should be used on the citrus trees to fight the sillids/greening. Also, don't forget to fertilize the citrus. Use the same fertilizer used on lychees.

PERSIMMONS – The early varieties are starting to get ripe. You may have the variety called Winter Set ripen as late as December to early January.

If you have a seedling avocado that is 4-6 years old that has never fruited, **girdle it just below the first branch** (so as not to show the scar that will occur). Girdling will prevent the sugars from the leaf areas going back down to the roots. Applying extra 0-0-22 also will help to give a higher percentage chance of flowering and fruiting the next year.

To girdle an avocado, use your pocket knife or hacksaw. Cut through the cambian layer to the hardwood. DO NOT TAKE AWAY ANY BARK. This technique can also be used on lychees & longans **ONLY on** 1 **inch or smaller branches**.

CLUB NOTES

September Event

September 16th & 17th -- Immokalee Adopt-a-Grove Event planting fruit trees at FSU College of Medicine in Immokalee on Friday and Saturday, September 16 and 17. contact suef@ufl.edu

November Event

November 19 -- Collier Fruit Growers Fall Tree Sale 9 AM to 2 PM. Freedom Park

Thanks to Rodger Taylor, Jack Rich and others who organized and put together the extension of the nursery at 8200 Immokalee Road. Join Crafton Clift and others Thursdays from 10 AM to 12 PM for discussion, work and lunch.

Collier Fruit Growers Inc.
c/o Jan-Marie Etzel
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SEPTEMBER 2016

FRUIT NEWS

Our next meetings are Mondays,

September 19, and October 17.

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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