

# Southwest Florida Tropical Fruit NEWS

*covering Naples and Bonita Springs, Florida*

## December 2008

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**Due are due. Support your club. Pay on time and save the club the hassle of tracking you down. CFGC members save if they pay by February. Details below.**

### Club news

## COLLIER FRUIT GROWERS COUNCIL

[www.collierfruit.org](http://www.collierfruit.org)

**The next meeting is Monday, December 15th.** This is our annual potluck dinner with all the bells and whistles. Bring a generous dish to share. The club provides beverage, meat for meat eaters, plates and serveware. Arrive at 6pm to eat; earlier to help make things festive. The place: Golden Gate Community Center, 4701 Golden Gate Parkway, Naples.

**Tasting table.** Janet Puig is overseeing the tasting table. Please wash the fruit before you bring it to make the whole process easier. It'd also help if you bring a sign identifying the fruit.

**Membership & change of address.** Yearly membership is \$25; renewals before February 1, \$15. Send checks and change of address information to Mary Fehr, c/o CFGC, 137 Debron Dr., Naples FL 34112.

**Miracle fruit project.** To avoid spoilage, freeze berries in a ziplock bag, 12 to a bag. When you bring berries to the club meeting, add ice and salt to preserve the berries. For more information, contact John Puig at 601-2919 or [capjohn@naplesbiofuel.com](mailto:capjohn@naplesbiofuel.com).

## BONITA SPRINGS FRUIT CLUB

**The next meeting is Tuesday, December 9th.** The annual potluck dinner is held at the same location, at 6pm. Please bring a generous dish to share. The club will provide beverage, meat for meat eaters, unlimited mashed potatoes, as well as plates and serveware. Entertainment has been planned so be prepared to party. The place: First United Methodist Church, 27690 Shriver Ave., Bonita Springs (from Old 41, turn east on Crockett and left on Shriver).

**Bi-monthly workshop.** None this month. The Board meets at 1pm Dec. 5th at Tim Deaton's.

**Membership.** Yearly membership is \$15. Send checks to Tom Betts, 25071 Pennyroyal Lane, Bonita Springs, FL 34134.

## Fruit Calendar

**December 9. Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club** Christmas potluck. 6pm. First United Methodist Church, 27690 Shriver Ave., Bonita Springs. 851-4448.

**December 15. Collier Fruit Growers' Council** Christmas potluck. 6pm. Golden Gate Community Center, 4701 Golden Gate Parkway, Naples. 530-2383.

**December 9-11. Agricultural Conference, ECHO.** 17391 Durrance Road, North Fort Myers 239-543-3246, [www.echonet.org](http://www.echonet.org).

## What fruits are ripe in December?

Here are some of the tropical fruits we can harvest and enjoy this month:

|                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Carambola</b>       | <b>Papaya</b>         |
| <b>Banana</b>          | <b>Roselle</b>        |
| <b>Barbados cherry</b> | <b>Sapodilla</b>      |
| <b>Coconut</b>         | <b>Sapote, black</b>  |
| <b>Mamey apple</b>     | <b>Surinam cherry</b> |
| <b>Miracle fruit</b>   |                       |
| <b>Natal plum</b>      |                       |

## Collier Fruit Growers Council

The Collier Fruit Growers Council is an active non-profit organization dedicated to introducing, propagating and distributing the many rare tropical and subtropical fruits grown throughout the world, as well as offering education in these areas and encouragement to extend their cultivation. CFGC functions without regard to race, color or national origin.

## Too much turkey?

David Letterman's "Top 10 Signs You've Eaten Too Much at Thanksgiving Dinner."

10. Hundreds of volunteers have started to stack sandbags around you.
9. Doctor tells you your weight would be perfect for a person 17 feet tall.
8. You are responsible for a slight but measurable shift in the earth's axis.
7. Right this minute you're laughing up pie on the carpet.
6. You decide to take a little nap and wake up in mid-July.
5. World's fattest man sends you a telegram, warning you to "back off!"
4. CBS tells you to lose weight or else.
3. Getting off your couch requires help from the fire department.
2. Every escalator you step on immediately grinds to a halt.
1. You're sweatin' gravy.

### Officers

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| President, John Adams  | 777-8217 |
| no email   |          |
| Vice President, John Puig  | 601-2919 |
| <a href="mailto:captjohn@naplesbiofuel.com">captjohn@naplesbiofuel.com</a> |          |
| Newsletter editor, Linda Coyner  | 530-2383 |
| <a href="mailto:fruitnflowers@gmail.com">fruitnflowers@gmail.com</a>       |          |
| Treasurer, Mary Fehr   | 774-1047 |
| <a href="mailto:Fehrmary@earthlink.net">Fehrmary@earthlink.net</a>         |          |

### Directors

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| John Norman  | 455-6309 |
| <a href="mailto:kd4npo@aol.com">kd4npo@aol.com</a>                         |          |
| Brian Housewert  | 537-1261 |
| <a href="mailto:moonblinkstudios@gmail.com">moonblinkstudios@gmail.com</a> |          |
| Joann Martin   | 514-3965 |
| <a href="mailto:jomartin57@msn.com">jomartin57@msn.com</a>                 |          |
| Thomas Hecker  | 682-0674 |
| <a href="mailto:tshecker@gmail.com">tshecker@gmail.com</a>                 |          |

## December in SW Florida

### General notes:

Thank you to Jenny and David Burd for their presentation on fruit-tree maintenance at the last Collier meeting and to Chris Rollins for part II of tropical vegetables at the Bonita meeting. The Burds gave some great tips on making a do-it-yourself fruit-fly catcher baited with marmite and a pollination aid for avocados using fish guts.

### Growing notes:

Dry and cool, what can I say? A relief from the summer heat, at least. The Farmer's Almanac was right, we had a cooler than normal start to our fall/winter. As I write this, December is being ushered in with rain and wind.

This is the time to kick back and relax if you're caught up on chores. I still have weeds to clear around the base of my trees and remulching to do. When the leaves finally fall on the mulberry, I need to cut it back so I can reach the fruit.

My irrigation system needs extending to reach all the trees I've added this year. This is when an irrigation system can make or break your land-

scape. One lesson I learned last winter, do not run the irrigation during cold temperatures.

Forget about fertilizing. If you didn't do it, you missed the window of opportunity. Now you can wait till February.

My tomatoes are doing surprisingly well despite the cool nights. I'm trying a new location that used to be where the horse manure was dumped.

If you have questions about tropical fruits, email the newsletter ([fruitnflowers@gmail.com](mailto:fruitnflowers@gmail.com)). You can check with members at our monthly meetings or contact the University of Florida's Collier Extension at 353-2872 or Lee Extension at 461-7504

—Linda Coyner, horticulturist & freelance writer

## 'Lite' gardening

A mother, whose talents do not include gardening, was planting seeds one afternoon when her daughter dropped by to visit. As the daughter gazed at the not-too-straight rows, she suggested that her mother mark each row so that she would know what she had planted.

Without hesitation, the mother replied, "My dear girl, this is a garden, not a cemetery. I expect all of these seeds to come up and identify themselves."

Source: <http://www.becquet.ca/laughter/14.htm>

### Officers

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| President, Madeline Bohannon   | 851-4448     |
| <a href="mailto:madelinemay@excite.com">madelinemay@excite.com</a>   |              |
| Vice-President, Trevor Parks   | 947-9429     |
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| Treasurer, Tom Betts   | 498-0003     |
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| Newsletter editor, Linda Coyner                                      | 530-2383     |
| <a href="mailto:fruitnflowers@gmail.com">fruitnflowers@gmail.com</a> |              |
| Secretary, Kathy Walters   | 800-210-0217 |
| <a href="mailto:kathy@virtualdba.com">kathy@virtualdba.com</a>       |              |

### Directors

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Marie & Tim Deaton   | 992-4664 |
| <a href="mailto:timdeaton@yahoo.com">timdeaton@yahoo.com</a> |          |
| Emmet Moynihan   | 948-3702 |
| <a href="mailto:emmettrudy@aol.com">emmettrudy@aol.com</a>   |          |
| Joe Busa   | 948-0987 |
| <a href="mailto:jojobusa@yahoo.com">jojobusa@yahoo.com</a>   |          |

## Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club

The purpose is to introduce and distribute the many rare and tropical and subtropical fruits grown throughout the world; to inform, educate and advise members and the public in the selection of these valuable tree crops, so as to encourage their cultivation. Where possible, the organization will produce a basis for researching producing new cultivars and hybrids.

## Classified ads

⊙ Frank DeNardis is having a **citrus sale** for members only: 25-30 gallon trees, \$150. This includes orange, grapefruit, and tangerine trees, most already with fruit. Located in north Naples. 597-8359 or frankdenardis@aol.com.

⊙ Ken Sheppard has **banana plants** to give away. His bananas have grown more than he can handle so they're free for the digging. They're all different kinds but he's lost track of which are which. Located in Golden Gate Estates. 353-3330 or cstruly@aol.com.

⊙ Linda Coyner has a **birdcage** for sale. It's large, parrot sized. The bars are 1" apart (too big for the sun conure I have). It's on a stand with casters. Attractive antique finish suitable for a living room. Excellent condition. Size 53" tall; 24" deep; playstation on top 12" tall. Built-in stainless-steel feeding bowls and 2 perches. \$125. Located in Golden Gate Estates. 530-2383 or fruitnflowers@gmail.com.

⊙ Jenny and David Burd sell the fruits of their labor at the 3rd Street Farmers' Market in Naples (behind Tommy Bahama's) every Saturday morning in season, 8am till noon. Besides **fresh citrus and tropical fruit**, they have **dried mango, homemade chutneys and jelly, and lychee honey**. 263-0424 or friendl-burds@aol.com.

⊙ Linda Coyner has an abundance of **calamondins** on her tree. If you would like any, please let me know. Located in Golden Gate Estates. 530-2383 or fruitnflowers@gmail.com.

⊙ **Local organic food co-op** makes organic produce affordable. By cutting out the middle-man, we have reduced the price of healthier food. \$25 for two bags of organic produce OR \$15 for one bag of organic produce (you can also get one bag every other week). Two pickup locations--Golden Gate City near 951 and north Naples near Veteran's Park. More information at

GREEN VILLAGE ORGANICS  
(greenvillageorganics.com) or 580-0201

## Unexpected herbicide finding

According to a study recently published in *Weed Technology*, the long-term success of glyphosate — the main component of many weed-control products like Roundup — is hindered by diquat, a common additive [*for quick die back, Editor*]. This finding is significant because it contradicts the widely held belief that diquat improves the efficiency of glyphosate by increasing the speed of its phytotoxic effects.

Regression analyses of experiments conducted by the researchers revealed that the amount of glyphosate had to be increased by 60% to compensate for the reduced efficiency noted when both glyphosate and diquat were applied to the weeds used in the study. In terms of weed-control products, then, "less is more," but only when glyphosate alone is used.

It is true that short-term satisfaction is gained in terms of quick wilting and dehydration when both glyphosate and diquat are applied to weeds. However, the presence of diquat causes tissue necrosis, which prevents glyphosate from entering the weed's vascular tissue. When this occurs, the glyphosate is only able to infiltrate the plant to a limited extent, and the weed is thus more easily able to recover or regrow.

Although the authors of this study confirmed that diquat's presence does in fact cause rapid visual signs of weed damage, it does so at the expense of long-term weed control.

To read the entire study, visit [www.allenpress.com/pdf/wete-22-03-472-476.pdf](http://www.allenpress.com/pdf/wete-22-03-472-476.pdf)

# Dues are due— \$15 by Feb. 1