

# Southwest Florida Tropical Fruit News

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## Collier Fruit Growers

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

The next meeting is Monday, February 16th. This month's program will answer members questions about recent cold damage and, in preparation for the tree sale, some how-to on selling fruit trees.

The club meets on the third Monday of the month at 7pm for socializing and enjoying the tasting table, 7:30pm for the program.

We meet at the Golden Gate Community Center, except in January and February, the months when the GGCC is closed. The February meeting is at the Tree of Life Church, 2131 Shadowlawn Dr., Naples. (Shadow-lawn is a left turn off Davis Rd. just west of Airport Rd.)

**Tree sale change-of-location.** Please note that the March 21 tree sale will be held at the North Goodlette Farmers' Market at North Naples United Methodist Church, 6000 Goodlette Rd. N, Naples.

**Fruit for the tasting table.** Please cut up fruit to make it easier to sample.

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

**Upcoming dates.** ECHO Farm Day/tree sale, March 14; Spring tree sale, March 21; Earth Day, Koreshan State Historical Site, Estero, April 25.

## Bonita Springs

### Tropical Fruit Club

The next meeting is Monday, February 10th. The subject is a new organic mat for weed suppression. Blair Blacker, CEO of Smart Grow, will give the presentation.

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month except July and August.

Meetings begin at 7pm with a brief business discussion; the program runs from 7:30 till 8:30pm; socializing and refreshments until 9pm.

Meetings are held at the First United Methodist Church, 27690 Shriver Ave., Bonita Springs (from Old 41, turn east on Crockett and left on Shriver).

**Bi-monthly workshop.** This discussion group meets February 24 at 7pm. The board of directors meets at 6pm.

**Fruit for the tasting table.** Please cut up fruit to make it easier to sample.

**Membership.** Dues are \$15. Send checks to Tom Betts, 25071 Pennyroyal Lane, Bonita Springs, FL 34134.

**Upcoming dates.** Spring tree sale, March 7; ECHO farm day/tree sale, March 14.

## Fruit calendar

**February 10. Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club** monthly meeting. 7pm. First United Methodist Church, 27690 Shriver Ave., Bonita Springs. 992-4664.

**February 16. Collier Fruit Growers** monthly meeting. 7pm. Tree of Life Church, 2131 Shadowlawn Dr., Naples. 643-7275.

**February 23. Native Plant Society** monthly meeting. 7pm. Naples Botanical Garden, 4820 Bayshore Dr., Naples. 643-7275.

**February 24. BSTFC** discussion group. 7pm. First United Methodist Church, Bonita Springs. 992-4664.

**March 7. BSTFC tree sale.** 9am-3pm. Riverside Park, Old 41, Downtown Bonita Springs. 992-4664.

**March 14. ECHO Farm Day & tree sale.** 9am-3pm. 17391 Durrance Rd. off Bayshore Rd., 1 mile east of I75, exit 143.

**March 21. CFG tree sale.** 9am-3pm. North Goodlette Farmer's Market at North Naples United Methodist Church, 6000 Goodlette Rd.

## What's ripe?

	coconut
avocado	macadamia nut
banana	miracle fruit
canistel	papaya
carambola	sapodilla
citrus	sapote, black
	sapote, mamey

## Over the picket fence....

Citrus picked from the northwest side of the tree is sweetest.—Newt Davis, CFG member

Add vinegar to Roundup for quick die down.—Gordon Shrede, CFG member

Black sapote is a member of the persimmon family; when it's ripe, it has the same pudding-like texture as ripe persimmon.—Gene Joyner

Sweet oranges and key lime are the most cold sensitive citrus.—editor's research



## Collier Fruit Growers

Collier Fruit Growers 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. CFG functions without regard to race, color or national origin.

### Officers

**John Puig**, President 601-2919  
[captjohn@naplesbiofuel.com](mailto:captjohn@naplesbiofuel.com)

**Brian Housewert**, Vice President 537-1261  
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**Mary Fehr**, Treasurer 774-1047  
[Fehrmary@earthlink.net](mailto:Fehrmary@earthlink.net)

**Linda Coyner**, Newsletter editor/speaker coordinator 530-2383  
[fruitnflowers@gmail.com](mailto:fruitnflowers@gmail.com)

### At-large Directors

**John Adams**, past President 777-8217  
still no email

**Thomas Hecker** 682-0674  
[tshecker@gmail.com](mailto:tshecker@gmail.com)

## February in SW Florida

**Club notes.** Tree sales are afoot, ladies and gents: March 7 (Bonita) and March 21 (Collier). All hands on deck. See the calendar for details. Whether you need cold hardy selections or tropical selections, you can count on your clubs to provide choices you won't get anywhere else.

ECHO will be needing volunteers to help with their tree sale (Farm Day) on March 14. A person in each club will be designated for you to sign up with. Let's support both clubs and ECHO.

**Cultural notes.** Raise your hand if you got "burned" in the January cold snaps. That includes your faithful newsletter editor. As useful as the ECHO's January presentation was to the Collier club on Cold Protection Strategies, nothing helps if you're in a cold spot or a microclimate or both. My mangos are this bright rust color, even the ones I wrapped completely with frost cloth. (Don't ask about the tender ornamentals!)

I guess I'm a slow learner. Whatever survives this time around, fine. What doesn't gets replaced with cold hardy trees from ECHO's Guide to Choosing Fruit Trees for Cold Hardiness ([www.echonet.org](http://www.echonet.org)).

Here are trees hardy to 24 and below: Apple, Blackberry, Blueberry, Cherry of the Rio Grande, Fig, Jelly Palm, Kumquat, Loquat, Mulberry, Muscadine, Grape, Nectarine, Peach, Pear, Persimmon, Pineapple Guava, Pomegranate, Prickly Pear, Bay Leaf, Cattley Guava, Indian Jujube, Jaboticaba, Kei Apple, Macadamia Nut, Surinam Cherry, White Sapote.

Meanwhile, even though it's ahead of schedule, it's okay to fertilize trees lightly that are showing new growth (if you are lucky enough to have such a thing).

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 at 461-7505.—*Linda Coyner, horticulturist and freelance writer.*

## Vegetables to plant in February

Beets	Cabbage	Kale	Radish
Broccoli	Carrots	Kohlrabi	Rutabaga
Brussels sprouts	Cauliflower	Lettuce	Spinach
	Collards	Mustard	Tomatoes
	Dill	Parsley	Turnips
	Eggplant	Parsnips	Onions
	Endive	Peas, English	Watermelon

### Officers

**Tim Deaton**, President 992-4664  
[timdeaton@yahoo.com](mailto:timdeaton@yahoo.com)

**Trevor Parks**, Vice President 947-9429  
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### At-large Directors

**Madeline Bohannon**, past President 851-4448  
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Bob Van Scoy 002-1725  
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## 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 and producing new cultivars and hybrids.

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## An alternative approach gives hope for citrus greening

Maury Boyd has generated a lot of attention for his method of dealing with citrus greening.

Imagine if you faced a problem, and following the prescribed recommendation to address it would put you out of business. This has been the case with more than a few Florida citrus growers when they realize the extent that citrus greening has spread in their groves.

When grower Maury Boyd learned that likely 25% to 35% of his trees in Felda were positive for greening after initial scouting in 2006, he knew removing that many trees from his grove would essentially put him out of business. So following the recommendation to remove infected trees was a tough choice.

### Nutrition At Heart Of Program

Having a lifelong passion for citrus and coming from a family with generations in the business, Boyd was not ready to throw in the towel. He had long been interested with the process of how plants use nutritionals, and more recently how they use their own natural defenses to ward off threats, a process called systemic acquired resistance (SAR). That set him on a path to build on a nutritional approach with applications of salicylic acid in the form of salicylate using potassium and hydrogen peroxide to boost the health of the greening-infected trees. Salicylic acid is the active ingredient in aspirin. Originally, aspirin was taken from the bark of the willow trees. Boyd stresses this approach is not a cure for greening, but hopefully will extend the productive life of infected trees.

“If we removed infected trees, it would have basically put us out of business,” says Boyd. “That is what made us do what we did in terms of applying an aggressive plant nutritional program and salicylate. We are not claiming this is a cure and don’t know what the future holds, but we’ve not had a tree die from greening, and the trees look better now than they did two years ago — even with virtually 100% infection.”

He believes nutritionals, salicylate, and hydrogen peroxide applications are central factors that are boosting his trees’ defenses against greening. In fact, plants naturally produce some of these agents to fight threats. Boyd makes applications during flush when leaves are tender to supplement the trees’ own natural defenses.

“I use the example of why we humans are told to eat fruits and vegetables — because it is good for our health and natural defenses,” he says. “Well, plants need the same thing for their health.”

### Short Jump

The transition to Boyd’s current program was not a huge jump, as he had evolved his program over the years to fight other pests and conditions. Years ago, when greasy spot was his main concern, Boyd knew heavy metals like manganese, zinc, and magnesium would help control fungi like greasy spot, so

they became part of his dry nutritional applications. Because he has low pH soils, he avoided copper applications, developing a fungus control for rust mites.

Later, in his Immokalee grove, he started seeing phytophthora problems and applied Aliette (fosetyl-aluminum, Bayer CropScience) and later K-Phite (mono- and Di-potassium salts of phosphorous acid, Plant Food Systems) to control the problem. When canker came along, he started applying Oxidate (hydrogen peroxide, BioSafe Systems ) and Serenade (*Bacillus subtilis*, AgraQuest) for canker control.—By Frank Giles, Florida Grower, January 2009

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## Aggressive Action

Boyd’s nutritional and plant defense spray program is very aggressive. Here is what it consists of:

- Serenade Max WP
  - Oxidate or DI-Oxysolv
  - 3-18-20 w/K-Phite with boron — increases the nitrogen during spring and early summer
  - magnesium sulfate (dry)
  - zinc sulfate (dry)
  - manganese (dry)
  - sodium molybdate (dry) (due to low PH soil)
- 13-0-44 spray grade
- SAver
- 435 oil
- Dry fertilizer applied to the ground during growing season +N-P-K at the start, but finish with N-P-++K
  - Based on weather, rains, etc., include foliar around 200 nitrogen and 250 potash.
  - For calcium, supply using calcium ammonium nitrate.
  - Gypsum should do fine when not attempting to raise the pH.

### Boyd Speaks On Application:

“Start spraying when the new flush emerges; if one’s time is limited, spray every other row, targeting this flush. Finish before the flush hardens. Blow spray through the tree rows penetrating as far across as possible. By doing this, the application timing will be halved; then return to the off row and spray. We rarely

top. This one whole application will spray the grove in different growth stages.”

“In the spring, we began this year applying aerially a +N-P-K with K-Phite and SAver when the groves began their initial flush. We also began the ground spraying. We spray three times per year by ground. If one has four flushes, you can cover with three applications by doing every other row.”

## Your name is important to us

The Collier Club wants everyone to know your name

CFG has new name tags for all its members. Before the meeting, grab your name tag from the storage box; after each meeting, place it back in the box in alphabetical order. To encourage members to wear name tags (provided by the club or their own), it'll cost extra to buy raffle tickets if you're not wearing one.

If you are wearing a name tag, the raffle costs \$1 each or 3 for \$2. If you bring a donation to the raffle or tasting table, you get 3 free raffle tickets.

Members without a name tag will have to pay \$3 for a single raffle ticket or three for \$5. If you find yourself without a name tag, you can buy a temporary stick on for \$1.

The club is looking for someone to take charge of the name tags. If you are interested, please see a board member.

## Make your own plant labels

Get another use out of that empty soda can before you pitch it into the recycling bin. By using some heavy gauge wire, some wire cutters, a hole punch, scissors, and a fine-tipped ballpoint pen, you can make cheap, corrosion-resistant plant-identification markers, so you keep track of what's growing where.

Cut the aluminum can into small strips using the scissors. The metal is very thin and easy to cut though a little awkward because of the round shape of the can. You can make 18 to 20 labels from one can if you keep them fairly small. After cutting up all the pieces use the hole punch to make a hole near one edge.

Next, use the wire cutters to cut your wire into 6- to 8-inch lengths, and then bend on end into a slightly open loop. Using the ballpoint pen, engrave your label with your plant's name. Slip the label onto the wire loop, close up the loop with some pliers, and you're done.

## Fruit Paella Recipe by [little\\_wing](#)

Here's a nice paella recipe without seafood (gasp, but you can certainly add some if you like).

1 hour & 30 min prep SERVES 8

- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 2 stalks lemongrass, crushed
- 2 cups jasmine rice or arborio rice
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh garlic
- 2 tablespoons chopped ginger root
- 2 large red bell peppers, seeded and diced
- 1/4 cup chopped green onion
- 1/2 cup water chestnut, diced
- 1 small pineapple, diced
- 1 large star fruit, sliced
- 1 medium papaya, diced
- 1 medium mango, diced
- 2 tablespoons rum

1. Place rice in sieve and rinse under cold water until water runs clear.
2. Drain well.
3. In a saucepan heat the 1/4 cup olive oil and saute onion until softened.
4. Add the lemongrass, rice and salt, stir well.
5. Add broth, stir, cover and cook for 12-16 minutes over medium heat until rice is tender and the liquid is absorbed.
6. Remove and discard the lemongrass.
7. Saute garlic and ginger in remaining olive oil in a separate pan for about 4 to 5 minutes, until softened.
8. Add red bell pepper, water chestnuts, and fruits and saute lightly for 2 minutes until heated through.
9. Add rum and cook 1 minute.
10. Toss with rice mixture and serve.

## Got Questions about Growing Tropical Fruit? We're got Answers

Check out our website [www.collierfruit.org](http://www.collierfruit.org)

Our clubs have a lot of experienced backyard and professional growers. Bring your questions to the next meeting or have them posted in the newsletter (530-2383 or [fruitnflowers@gmail.com](mailto:fruitnflowers@gmail.com)). You can also call the Collier Extension Service plant clinic at 353-2872, M/W/F 9am-noon and 1-4pm. The Lee County Extension horticulture desk can be reached during those hours at 461-7504.

Don't overlook online resources about tropical fruits. For instance, you can access the full text of Julia Morton's [Fruit of Warm Climates](http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/morton/index.html) at [www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/morton/index.html](http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/morton/index.html).

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# February 2009 Fruit News

**Note:** CFG's February 16th meeting is at the Tree of Life Church, 2131 Shadowlawn Dr., Naples. (Shadowlawn Dr. is a left turn off Davis Rd. just west of Airport Rd.)