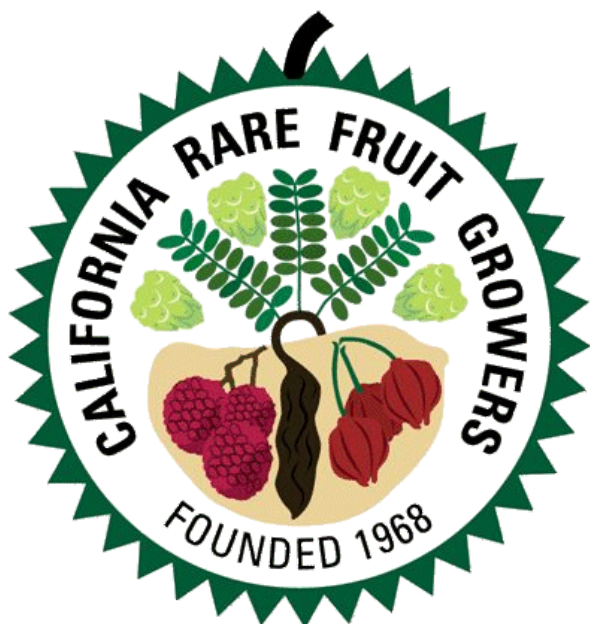


# CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS

## SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

JULY 2004 NEWSLETTER



*Minutes for the June 24, 2004 Meeting*

### *JULY MTG -- BRING ICE CREAM TOPPINGS!*

Our brief business meeting included David's raffle table donation of three of the pomegranate trees from this years grow out of the cuttings from the USDA germplasm repository in Davis. Two, Kazake (Cossack) and Parfianka are central asian selections collected by the Russian experiment station in Turkmenistan. One, the popular Pink Ice, is from the experimental orchard in Winters, CA. The winners are asked to plant the trees out in good spots in the ground and monitor their progress so they can report back to expand the knowledge base for these new varieties.

Dr. Greg Partida of Cal Poly, Pomona, was our most welcome and informative speaker. His presentation was on several key factors in growing abundant, healthy tropical and sub tropical fruit: (1) these fruits need at least six hours of direct sunlight each day. More is better. (2) Water is very important. It needs to be applied in the right place and in sufficient quantity. Water applied through a valve right next to the tree base is best for young

trees. Young trees (avocados were the example) need 25 to 75 gallons a week. Mature trees need water spread over a larger area -- all the way out past the "drip line", the edge of the canopy which is also where feeder roots are concentrated. Note that when a big tree is pruned way back, or cut back and grafted over, it still needs water and its feeder roots extend to the edge of the former canopy, not the new reduced canopy. Mature tropical/subtropical's [again Avocado was the example] need 200 to 400 gallons of water a week. Lack of airborne moisture (humidity) is also a problem when it comes to fruit set for many trees such as Lychees and Longans. A mist sprayer up in the canopy run during the hot daylight hours for the duration of the blooming period may help to dramatically increase fruit set. (3) Keeping one's soil rich in organic matter also results in better fruit. Mulching is highly recommended. Dr. Partida advises us to leave pruned branches and leaves on the ground rather than keeping a "tidy" garden. Steer manure is an excellent plant food, soil amendment, and mulch. The roots of some trees such as avocados grow very close to the surface. Such trees can be planted higher than the soil's surface on a small mound. Mulch and steer manure are then spread around the mound, allowing the roots to spread out and feed therein. Good old manure (actually it doesn't even need to be old to work) is a very effective fertilizer, and we need to overcome our social consciousness and just use it. If the neighbors complain, the odor will probably be gone by the time the city officials arrive. Dr. Partida also discussed some plant nutrients that are helpful. Phosguard (0-28-25), a buffered phosphorous acid solution is a very useful root stimulant used as a foliar spray at the rate of an ounce per gallon of water. This is good for stimulating root growth in newly planted trees and for preventing root rot in established trees. Humic acid supplements are also good for general plant health and growth. Either in solid powdered form applied to the soil surface, or in liquid form at the rate of an ounce per gallon applied either to the soil,

as a foliar spray or both. When using it as a foliar spray, note that Fulvic acid products are also good. Fulvates are the smaller molecule end of the humate spectrum. Theoretically the smaller molecules are more easily taken up foliarly. Although many products today have humates added to them, it should be noted that Dr. Partida was talking about using solid products that were at least 60 to 80 per cent active humates and using liquids that were at least 8 to 12 per cent. (4) Pruning—actually keeping big trees down to about eight feet tall—fosters fruit production: trees may be planted closer together, and the fruit is easier to pick. (5) Disease

is a big problem in areas with rainy springs such as San Diego. Mangos are particularly susceptible to Anthracnose disease, otherwise known as “leaf spot.” Sulfur, copper, or a “Bordeaux” spray (a mixture of copper sulfate, lime and water) can be used to curtail it and other fungal diseases. I must confess that when Dr. Partida mentioned a “Bordeaux spray,” I was thinking of something entirely different and a lot more fun. Thanks for another great meeting everyone. See you next time.

*Linnea Lamar*

## THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

I forgot to mention last time what a great time the Festival of Fruit was. It was great fun. I highly recommend these annual events. Anyone who has gone to one knows what I mean. There was a lot of great stuff. I'm not going to try to replay it. I want to just mention one thing of many things that impressed me, the Santa Clara Valley chapter's table. It was very simple. They had a cherry tasting that consisted of two varieties, but they brought at least a case of each. They were from Andy Mariani's Orchard (<http://www.andysorchard.com/>) The cherries were Black Republican and Black Tartarian. Like most of us, I've been raised on Bing cherries and the yellow ones with the blush. But these heirlooms were a revelation. Black Republican is, I was told, a parent of Bing. And it has a texture like Bing, but it is several shades darker with a deep mellow flavor. But the one that knocked my socks off was Black Tartarian. This cherry did not have the crisp texture of a commercial cherry. It was much softer. But it was really black and it had a deep complex flavor. It made me think of one of the dark red wines like maybe a good Petite Sirah, so much pigment that a glass of it absorbs all light and has the same kind of deep complex flavor. It may even be connected the way the berry flavor in good blood oranges is carried in the pigments. A great cherry, but probably a dead branch on the "cherry tree". That texture is outside of consumer expectation and that softness probably ships very badly.

But enough about all that. Let's talk about the humic acid products and the phosphorous acid products that we learned about from Professor Partida. I am going to quote some prices here. They may be a little bit higher or significantly lower. It depends on how much interest there is. Let me know what you want to order and how much of it.

Humax Liquid           \$ 14.00/gal

Humax Powder        55 lb bag @ \$3.75 lb + 20 dollars shipping

Activate Humic Acid Powder       \$36.00/50 lb bag

Fulmax           (Fulvate Liquid for foliar feeding) \$16.00/gal

Phosguard 0-28-25   \$28.00/gal

These are all estimates depending on how much we need and who we get it from. Note that most of these prices include shipping. Note also that the only one that does not need to be special ordered is the Phosguard. Grangetto's has it in stock for \$32.19. Let me know. We'll have sign up sheets at the meeting. Note also that if you can wait, Paul Fisher is negotiating some real good prices on this stuff.

And don't forget the Plant Sale is almost upon us. Inventory your salable plants. Get excited. Be there on Saturday the fourth of September. Below are the rules.

1. Fees: 25 dollars for 60 square feet selling space. 10 dollars for subsequent increments or parts of increments of 30 square feet. Chapter can make reasonable exceptions and to limit space available to any vendor. Members in good standing (including paid up parent organization membership) of any local CRFG chapter pay no fee. Parent-Organization-Only members will be asked to pay the modest fee to join the local chapter.
2. All participants are encouraged to donate their plants or the full proceeds of sale of their plants. Amateur vendors must donate at least 10 per cent of the gross sales proceeds to the Chapter. Commercial Nurseries must donate at least 15 per cent of gross sales proceeds to the Chapter.
3. Amateurs include back yard growers and propagators. Commercial Nurseries are people or entities in the regular business of selling plants. They can be distinguished from Amateurs by one or more of the following indicia. Sales Volume of greater of 12 thousand dollars in the past year. Reselling of plants purchased from other growers, except where those plants were purchased as rootstocks and grafted over by the vendor. Having a commercial plant selling premises other than one's residence. Other indicia that one is or is not in the regular commercial business of selling plants will be considered.
4. The Board speaks for the Chapter on interpreting these rules, making allowances and exceptions, etc. Their decision is final and creates no right of appeal, no matter how arbitrary, capricious or downright idiotic it is. If a question arises onsite or in a situation when the Board cannot practically gather a quorum, it can be finally resolved by a majority of Board members present. The Board has discretion to reconsider matters if it wants to.
5. The Board, in consultation with the Plant Sale Committee, may decide from time to time on any additional rules. Participants in the Plant Sale are deemed to be doing so for the benefit of the Chapter and to agree to these rules. No decision of the Chapter can create any legal injury to them or create any rights for them whatever.

*David Silverstein*

David Silverstein -- Chair (619) 523 8565 <a href="mailto:chair@crfgsandiego.org">chair@crfgsandiego.org</a>	Paul Fisher --Vice-Chair, Membership Manager and Treasurer (619) 440 2213 <a href="mailto:vicechair@crfgsandiego.org">vicechair@crfgsandiego.org</a>
Barry Resetco (858) 278-3732 and Jack Skeels (619) 465-3312 – Facilities Team	Zhenxing Fu -- Newsletter Editor and Librarian (858) 587-2723 <a href="mailto:editor@crfgsandiego.org">editor@crfgsandiego.org</a>
Linnea Lamar, Secretary, (619) 424-3594 <a href="mailto:theearthwalker@cox.net">theearthwalker@cox.net</a>	Jim Neitzel (619) 262-8959 and Mike 619-384-1989 <a href="mailto:eventscoordinator@crfgsandiego.org">eventscoordinator@crfgsandiego.org</a> – Program and Event Coordinators
Jose Gallego – Webmaster and Director of National Affairs (619) 697-4417 <a href="mailto:webmaster@crfgsandiego.org">webmaster@crfgsandiego.org</a>	Irene Sias – Greeter (619) 482-0938

## Announcements:

- 1) **PLANT SALE Flyers.** We'll have them at the meeting. We encourage you to take some so you can ask your local nursery, laundramat, library, massage parlor etc. to display one.
- 2) **THE TINA GRAFTING KNIVES ARE HERE!** If you ordered one, you can pick it up at our next meeting. They look quite nice. If others are interested, we might order again.
- 3) **Member Directory** -- We'd like to publish one. E-mail or call Zhenxing to opt out. Default is you are in.

Don't forget to check our website at [www.crfgsandiego.org](http://www.crfgsandiego.org).

## May Meeting:

WHERE: Casa del Prado Building Room 101, Balboa Park

WHEN: July 22 at 7 pm

MEETING TOPIC: Some new Fruit Varieties -- Ice cream social. Homemade toppings.

For membership, please mail your application form and check to

**CRFG, San Diego Chapter**  
**C/O Paul Fisher**  
**1266 Vista Del Monte Dr.**  
**El Cajon, CA 92020**

**San Diego Chapter 2004 Calendar**  
*Year of the Berry*

<b>Month</b>	<b>Meeting Topic</b>	<b>Event(s) For the Month</b>
July 22 Casa del Prado 101	New Deciduous Tree Varieties -- Summer Fruit Taste Off. & Ice Cream Social -- Home Made Toppings and Fresh Fruits	Picnic with North County Chapter at Quail Botanical Garden July 10, starting about 11:30 a.m.
August 26 Casa del Prado 101	Banana Growing and Pup Exchange & Ice Cream social -- Exotic Fruits Local Banana growing experts, Paul Fisher and John Verdick will give an informative presentation on banana growing and on the many varieties of banana.	
September 23 Casa del Prado 104	Pest Control in the Fruit Garden - Ron Hobgood of County pest control will be our speaker for the control of vertebrate pest control.-	<b>ANNUAL FRUIT TREE SALE. SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2004. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. 9:00 a.m. until it's over.</b>
October 28 Casa del Prado 101	Nut Trees -- Pecans, Macadamias, Almonds etc. Ice Cream social -- Exotic Fruits	
November 18 Casa del Prado 103	Winter Pruning	
December 16 Casa del Prado 101	Holiday Dinner, Elections and Gift Exchange	