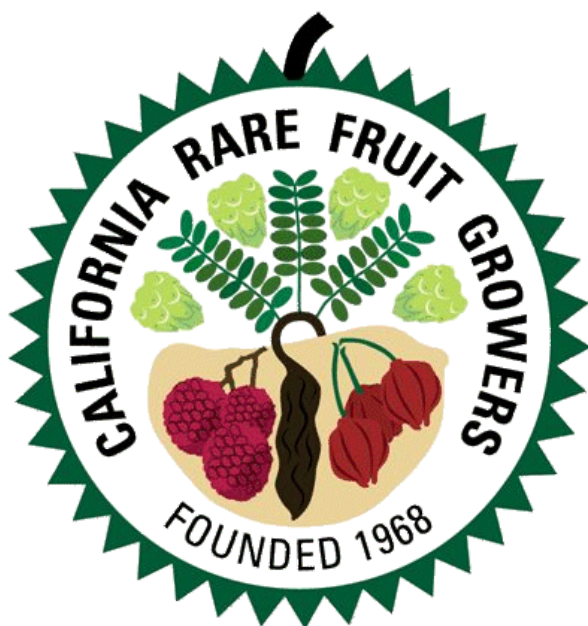


CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

MARCH 2004 NEWSLETTER



Meeting - February 26, 2004

Items of business included a reminder that members should be sure to know when their membership expires and renew. CRFG and local chapter dues are an important part of the club's funding. Attendees were encouraged to join CRFG, and members were asked to sign a sheet which noted their CRFG membership expiration date. John Verdick discussed the Orange County Chapter on specific varieties of mangos. If members would like to participate in the study, they may purchase trees for \$25, which is a great price for mango trees. The purchaser need only take notes about the characteristics and progress of the tree to report back to the Orange County Chapter. Also, our own John Allen for Rancho Jojoba Nursery offered that there were oak trees available at no cost for fire victims. A discussion of grafting and pruning knives available to order through the club followed. The club's experienced fruit growers recommended the Tina 641/10L budding/grafting knife as shown in February's newsletter. It can be bought through the

club for \$17.75, which is a great price for this high quality grafting knife.

Jim Neitzel and Tom Delhotel headed an excellent discussion and demonstration on grafting. From now to October is the best time to graft and bud. Grafting may be used among similar species. For example, apples may be grafted with other apples, pears, or quince. Stone fruit trees such as plums and almonds may also be grafted together, and all citrus varieties may be grafted with other citrus. Many varieties of figs may be grafted onto one tree or planted in one hole to save space. Deciduous trees do not have to be dormant for grafting purposes. The scion (the twig to be attached to the rootstock) should be very close in diameter to the rootstock. The scion should have at least one dormant bud—a bud that has not yet sprouted growth. Two dormant buds are better, in case one fails; three or more buds puts too great of a burden on the graft, and these extra buds need to be removed.

The saddle graft, the whip and tongue graft, and the splice graft were demonstrated. All techniques stress the alignment of the cambium (the thin layer between the green inner bark and the wood) of both pieces. Attendees received a copy of Leo Manual's informative handout, which describes these techniques in detail.

And Don't Forget! We are approaching the last chance to sign up for the **Festival of Fruit** without paying a late charge. The form is enclosed in this issue. We will discuss at the March meeting the possibility of car pooling up there or arranging other transportation.

Linnea Lamar

THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Well, Happy Springtime. I hope you all enjoyed our brief period of abundant rain. It sure has kick started every weed in my yard. I'm happy to report

also that my quarantine area inspection went very well and very easily. My Postentry Quarantine Permit should be arriving in the mail any day now. It will allow me to import loquat, pomegranate, fig and prickly pear from Spain, France, Italy, Greece, and Australia. If I knew that the process was this simple I would have done it long ago. I encourage others to apply as well. The more quarantine areas that we have among our members, the more opportunity there is to bring in more varieties that are unavailable anywhere in the United States. I have selected about 15 loquat varieties that are most worthy of testing. I doubt I can fit more than half that in my area, as they need room to grow during the two year quarantine period. And there are certainly some others beyond the 15 that have merit. As to pomegranates, my friend in Texas passed along his Australian source. Take a look at the website at <http://www.fixedstars.com.au/> . Fixed Stars (Andrew) has the seedless Ganesh, and Jalore, as well as a number of interesting south central Asian selections that we don't have here in America. Galusha Rosavaya, Isseka, and Griffiths are a couple of other ones recommended by Fixed Stars. If you have room for imported pomegranates, we may be able to try them all. And then there are subjects I haven't even touched yet. For example, there is a germplasm repository in Spain and another in Ecuador that maintain cooperative ties with one another. Both maintain large overlapping cherimoya collections. The Spanish one has, if I recall correctly, 288 different varieties of cherimoya. I think that USDA/ARS collections have 70 at most.

If I remember, I'll bring copies of USDA form PPQ 546 for folks to take. I include relevant information in this issue also for people who want to just proceed on their own. I would ask you though, if you are going to order foreign material, let your fellow CRFG members know about it. The overseas shipping rates are outrageous and it costs very little more to send five orders in a box than just one order. The local USDA inspectors at Otai Mesa have said that they would work with us on this so that multiple orders under multiple permits could be included in a single shipping box as long as the various permittees' materials were all separately wrapped within.

Anyhow, I want to wish our own Jack Skeels and Jim Neitzel a very happy birthday each. I was surprised to learn that Jack is turning 80, so surprised that I'm thinking maybe I got it wrong. Maybe they said 50. He sure looks every day of 50, heck 55 even. And Jim, he's not saying how old he's turning, but I'm guessing he's also in his early 50s. And in any case, happy Birthday both of you. If anyone is interested in ordering one of those grafting knives from Timm enterprises that we publicized in the last issue, let me know. One more person has to order so that Jack can get his bargain knife. If they don't, we'll have to buy it for him at full retail price somewhere.

David Silverstein

THE STRAIGHT DOPE ON PLANT IMPORTATION PERMITS

PPQ Form 546

This is the form for the permit to import plants that will be subject to postentry quarantine. Not all plant genera need postentry quarantine. Those that do are listed in the federal code of regulations. However almost any plant that bears edible fruit is on that list. The only one I've found that is not is the good old prickly pear. Select PPQ Form 546 from the list at this link. <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/permits/>

When you complete the form, follow the directions at the top. It tells you to send three copies to your state authority and retain one for your files. The state authority is the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). Their address and contact info is below. Stephen Brown is the principal guy. But it is best to call Kris Peoples if you have questions as he may not have time to get back to you promptly. CDFA Info:

California Department of Food and Agriculture Division of Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services

1220 N Street, Room A-316
Sacramento, California 95814
Telephone: (916) 654-1017
FAX: (916) 654-1018

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/permitsandregs.htm>

Stephen Brown, Special Assistant
[Email: sbrown@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:sbrown@cdfa.ca.gov)

Kris Peoples,
Staff Services Analyst
[Email: kpeeples@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:kpeeples@cdfa.ca.gov)

CDFA will forward a copy of your permit application to USDA and a copy to S.D. County department of Agriculture, Weights and measures. They are the ones to issue the phytosanitary certificates that you need if you are going to ship to another state or another country. They also may inspect your plants on arrival. This is their website <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/awm/> . For details on receiving shipments click on the link for http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/awm/producer_shippers.html . Contact information is

San Diego County Agriculture, weights and measures
 1645 Capalina Road, Suite 600
 San Marcos, CA 92069
 760-752-4700

If you have the postentry quarantine area set up and approved, chances are the County will not bother to inspect your shipment, as they know that USDA just has, and CDFA will be inspecting the plants two to three times a year during the quarantine period.

PPQ FORM 587

Select this one on the permit list at the usda website if you are getting plants that do not require postentry quarantine such as prickly pears and possibly other fruiting cactus. It does not hurt to list the plants that need postentry quarantine on it as well. But I do not believe it is necessary. Send this one right to the USDA address on the permit application.

The federal regulations that set out which plants are prohibited and which plants are subject to quarantine are set out at title 7 of Code of Federal Regulation, part 319.37. Search it on the web if you want to read it. Or use this link http://199.132.50.50/Oxygen_FOD/FB_MD_PPQ.nsf/0/9e28b8ff95605b3c852568f20069831a?OpenDocument 319.37-7 is the one that lists plants requiring quarantine. It includes pomegranates, figs and loquats.

David Silverstein

David Silverstein -- Chair (619) 523 8565 chair@crfgsandiego.org	Paul Fisher --Vice-Chair, Membership Manager and Treasurer (619) 440 2213 vicechair@crfgsandiego.org
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Linnea Lamar, Secretary, (619) 424-3594 theearthwalker@cox.net	Jim Neitzel (619) 262-8959 and Mike 619-384-1989 eventscoordinator@crfgsandiego.org – Program and Event Coordinators
Jose Gallego – Webmaster and Director of National Affairs (619) 697-4417 webmaster@crfgsandiego.org	Irene Sias – Greeter (619) 482-0938

Don't forget to check our website at www.crfgsandiego.org.

March Meeting:

WHERE: Casa del Prado Building Room 104, Balboa Park
 WHEN: March 25 at 7 pm
 MEETING TOPIC: The Delicious Cherimoya -- Tasting, Tips on Growing it.

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 92122

San Diego Chapter 2004 Calendar

Year of the Berry

Month	Meeting Topic	Event(s) For the Month
January 22, 2004 Casa del Prado 101	Annual Scion and Cutting Exchange.	Orange County Chapter Scion Exchange Trip. JANUARY 31.
February 26 Casa del Prado 104	Propagating desirable fruit tree varieties by Grafting and Budding	Workshop. Individual instruction in Grafting and Budding methods. FEB 28. 10 dollar fee for non-members. Call or e-mail for more information.
March 25 Casa del Prado 101	The Delicious Cherimoya -- Tasting, Tips on Growing it.	Workshop. Individual instruction in Air Layering etc. 10 dollar fee for non-members. March 27, 2004 Call or e-mail for more information. March 27, 2004 Work Party at Quail Botanical Gardens CRFG plantings 9:00 a.m. bring your gloves and favorite rake and weeding equipment. Citrus Tour -- Riverside Chapter March 13
April 22 Casa del Prado 104	Propagation by Air Layering etc.	Green Scene, Fullerton Arboretum. April 24 & 25
May 27 Casa del Prado 101	Organic Soil Amendments -- Worm Castings -- Kelp Products etc.	Tentative Pikake Garden Tour. Date TBA.
June 24 Casa del Prado 101	Propagating subtropical fruit trees. Special Focus on Mango and Citrus.	Festival of Fruit -- June 18 to 20, Pomona.
July 22 Casa del Prado 101	New Deciduous Tree Varieties -- Summer Fruit Taste Off.	
August 26 Casa del Prado 101	Banana Growing and Pup Exchange -- Ice Cream Social -- Exotic Fruits	
September 23 Casa del Prado 104	Pest Control in the Fruit Garden	ANNUAL FRUIT TREE SALE. SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2004. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. 9:00 a.m. until it's over.
October 28 Casa del Prado 101	Nut Trees -- Pecans, Macadamias, Almonds etc. Ice Cream social -- Homemade toppings and Fresh Fruits	
November 18 Casa del Prado 103	Winter Pruning	
December 16 Casa del Prado 101	Holiday Dinner, Elections and Gift Exchange	