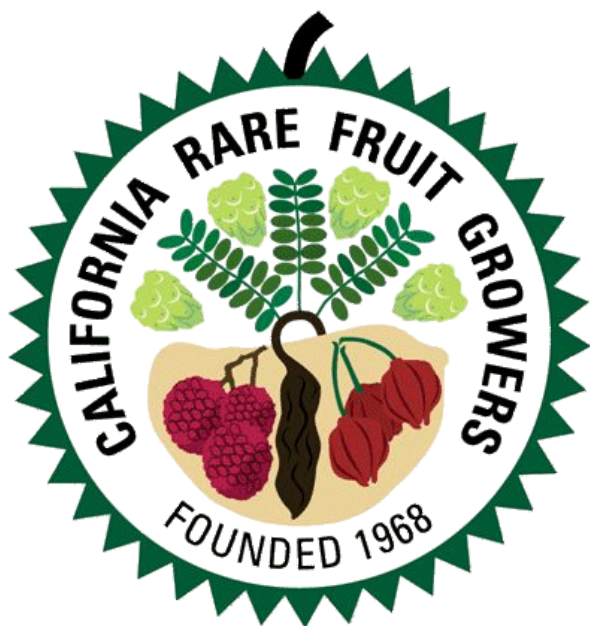


# CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS

## SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

JANUARY 2005 NEWSLETTER



much bigger, it is going to be more critical that we get Room 101 for our get-togethers.

Don't forget, our next meeting is the scion exchange.

### Bring your scions.

I'm talking about your cuttings, not your kids, grand etc. kids. (Though it's fine if you bring those as well.)

- Make your cuttings as near to the date of the meeting as possible.
- Come in early to help us properly place your cuttings on the table.
- Cuttings should be about the size (6") and width (1/8 to 3/4 inch) of a pencil.
- Do not allow your cuttings to dry out, store them in damp paper towels (or newspaper) in plastic bags in the refrigerator.
- Properly label each of your bundled cuttings.
- Make sure your cuttings are not from an infected source.
- Do a slanted cut at the top of your scions; this will point "up" in the growth direction.
- Do a straight cut at the bottom of your scions.
- Bring plastic bags, masking tape and a permanent marker to identify the scion you select.
- Also, bring a notebook to take notes as our hosts explain each cutting.
- If you bring something unusual, please make a note if it has to be grafted or just 'stick'em in the ground.'
- Bring as many different cuttings as you can.

***NEXT MEETING is JANUARY 27.***  
*It is the Scion Exchange.*

***Holiday Party was December 16, 2004:***

It was another excellent Holiday Party. We had a wonderful meal as usual thanks to the efforts of the members. We transacted no business, except for auctioning a couple of plants donated by Jim Neitzel: a very nice grafted "Suebelle" White Sapote and a "Blanco Colorado" Banana. Other than that, we mainly just enjoyed each other's company.

Our semi-annual scheduling conflict with the Fern Society put us in Room 104, the botanical foundation library. That made it pretty cozy and pleasant, though we were very close to the 60 person occupancy limit for that room. If we get

See you all on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January.

*David Silverstein*

### ***THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR***

We have passed the shortest day of the year now and we look forward now to lengthening days and new fruit growing challenges and rewards. My first challenge this year will be to answer the mail regarding our plant sale. I finally have seen the accusations against us. They have filtered down from the Office of the Mayor through the Department of Park and Recreation to me. The following is an excerpt



enough for callus to form, so it usually only grows a few inches the first year. But by pre-callusing the cuttings before planting, they can grow much more than they would otherwise, often enough to establish the trunk of the vine, if not more.

A callused cutting planted in its permanent location, kept weeded, watered, and well fertilized, can establish its roots in place as it grows a top and can often grow enough to allow it to bear a cluster or two the next season. This has been done in commercial vineyards in Oregon. Nursery-grown bareroot vines have to grow a year to re-establish their roots, before being trained up the second year, and can finally start to bear the third year, a full year after a cutting planted at the same time.

Before callusing, be sure cuttings haven't dried in storage. Standing them in an inch or two of water overnight will let them "refill," improving rooting.

There are several methods to callus cuttings, according to your situation. While rooting hormone isn't absolutely necessary, it can hasten callusing and increase the number of roots. A very good product for the purpose is [Dip 'N' Grow](#) (see sources) used at medium strength.

Method 1. Small amounts of cuttings can be callused by wrapping them in moist paper or sphagnum in a black plastic bag. Put them in a warm area that stays constantly at 80-85°F. The top of a refrigerator is a good place as the waste heat from the condenser collects there. Callusing should occur in one to two weeks. Buds may push and produce white sprouts, but this isn't harmful, though care should be taken to avoid breakage as the cutting must use energy to grow more shoots. Plant as soon as the cuttings are callused and roots start to appear.

Method 2. Plant the cuttings in a pot of a mix of 3 parts perlite to 1 part peat, by volume. Set the pot on a [heat mat](#) set to 85°F (25°C), in a cool area, or even outdoors in a protected area. This heats the root zone and encourages callusing, but the top of the cuttings, being in cool air, will not push buds as readily. The idea is to get roots before buds push too much so there is an existing root system to support the new growth when it appears. Rooting occurs in one to two weeks in most cases. See sources for a company that sells heat mats.

Method 3. Plant the cuttings in a one gallon black pot of the 3:1 perlite-peat mix and set it in a sunny location where the pot can be warmed by the sun. The pot should be no larger than one gallon as the warming effect of the sun will penetrate a larger pot too slowly. Avoid excess watering as that will cool the mix and slow rooting. This is a slower method, often taking as much as a month, and the buds will often start to grow before the roots are formed, but it works well enough for home use. .

Larger quantities of cuttings can be bundled in lots of 50 - 100 and rooted in the 3:1 perlite peat mix in benches with bottom heat (heat cables or hot water pipes) set at 80 - 85°F (25°C) in the root zone. Ideally, beds should be outdoors or in an unheated, or even refrigerated, room to retard sprouting of the buds while the cuttings callus and root, as in method #2. This reduces the likelihood of shoots that can break off during planting.

## **PLANTING**

Cuttings callus and root in a short time, so don't start callusing until the planting site is ready so the cuttings can be planted immediately. Once cuttings have a ring of callus on the base, or roots are starting to appear, it's time to plant them.

Cuttings may be planted: 1. directly in the spot where you plan to grow the vine; 2. in a nursery row where you can grow them until fall, then transplant the vine when it is dormant; 3. in a pot. In the last case, you can start cuttings early in the year, then transplant them into their permanent location from the pot as spring advances, or even grow them in the pot all summer and set them out in the fall, if fall planting is possible in your area.

If you lack means to keep the young vines watered in the permanent location, it is better to grow vines in a nursery or pot and transplant them as dormant vines, which are able to take more stress when they are planted in the permanent location.



## San Diego Chapter 2005 Calendar

### *Year of the Apple*

Month	Meeting Topic	Event(s) For the Month
January 27, 2005 Casa del Prado 101	Annual Scion and Cutting Exchange.	Orange County Chapter Scion Wood Exchange 10 am to Noon, but OC/CRFG members will be allowed access to scion wood from 9:30. Millennium Barn, Orange County Fair Grounds.
February 24 Casa del Prado 101	Propagating fruit trees by Grafting and Budding. Hands-on practice. Bring plants and scion wood to graft on site. Root stocks will be available for some species.	Durling Nursery Tour, Saturday February 26 at 10:00 a.m.
March 24 Casa del Prado 101	Cherimoyas. The cultivation and eating of Cherimoyas.	March 4-6 -- Home and Garden Show, Del Mar Fairgrounds.  26 March at 10:30, Southcoast Research Station Cherimoya tour.
April 28 Casa del Prado 101	Budding and propagation of subtropicals. Dominic Crescenti will then discuss some organic supplements and pesticides availabl from J&H Biotech.	Green Scene, Fullerton Arboretum. Date Saturday, 23 April 2005.
May 26 Casa del Prado 101	Organic Fertilizers	Member Garden Tours
June 23 Casa del Prado 101	Lychee and Longan. Presentation and Discussion.	Del Mar Fair June 10 to July 4th
July 28 Casa del Prado 101	Bananas. Two local experts, Jon Verdick and Paul Fisher will lead the discussion.	Quail Garden Picnic.
August 25 Casa del Prado 101	Figs. Steve Spangler and John Verdick	
September 22 Casa del Prado 104	Paw Paws. How to find and grow them. What are the best varieties?	<b>ANNUAL FRUIT TREE SALE.</b> SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 2005. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. 9:00 a.m. until it's over.
October 27 Casa del Prado 101	Mangos. Perry Coles will present and lead the discussion. Pomegranate tasting.	
November 17 Casa del Prado 103	Back by popular demand, Terry Salmon will present Vertebrate Pest Control II, focusing this time on rats and gophers. Also, workable bird management techniques.	
December 15 Casa del Prado 101	Holiday Dinner, Elections and Gift Exchange	