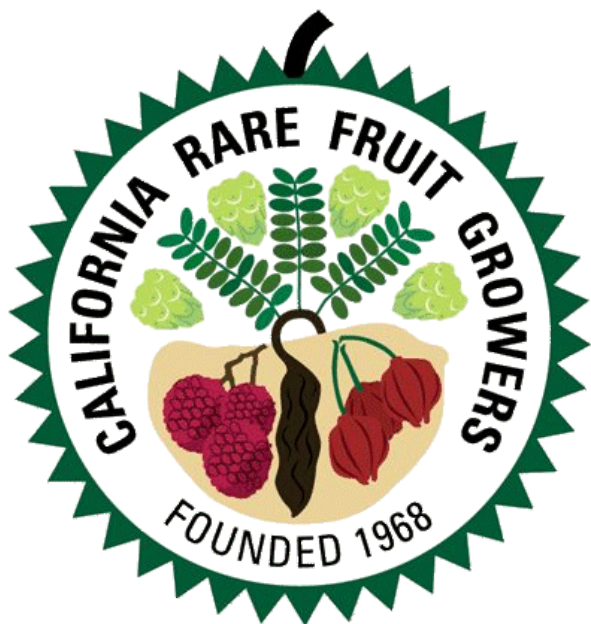


CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

NOVEMBER 2005 NEWSLETTER



NEXT MEETING is NOVEMBER 15

PLEASE REMEMBER:

1. NOVEMBER MEETING IS ON NOVEMBER 15, 2005 IN ROOM 101 OF THE CASA DEL PRADO.

2. THE HOLIDAY POTLUCK AND GIFT EXCHANGE WILL BE ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 16, 2005.

Meeting minutes for October 27th:

The October 27th meeting had few items of business. All were encouraged to attend Bill Nelson's retirement celebration since he has done much to support CRFG throughout the years. A local CRFG board meeting was scheduled (but never materialized) for purposes of discussing the 2007 Festival of Fruit, which we will be hosting here in San Diego. That meeting will now take place on November 19, 2005 (Saturday) at 9:00 a.m. at Paul Fisher's plantation.

The evening's scheduled speaker could not make it, so a panel discussion on mango trees was improvised out of

our local chapter's membership to include Jim Neitzel, Paul Fisher, and Leo Manual. Mangos are native to southern Asia, and many varieties perform well in San Diego. Here are a few tips about mango tree care: Copper sulfate spray should be part of regular care for mango trees. This is because mangos are subject to anthracnose and bacteria-caused diseases. Mango trees do not transplant easily. Transplanting can be made easier by putting the trees in a pot for a while and making a plastic tent to protect them. A mycorrhizal fungus can be injected to stimulate root growth. Overfertilization is a problem, and ammonia and other powerful nitrogen-based fertilizers can be harmful. Providing organic fertilizers and mulch are the best methods of feeding. Also, square holes make it easier for the mango tree's roots to spread out into the surrounding soil; whereas, the standard round holes encourage roots to circle within the hole, making it harder for them to receive nourishment from the soil. The main thrust of the discussion was on varieties of mangos. Here are a few varieties and their attributes that stood out:

EARLY SEASON: The Carrie is a dwarf tree with early sweet flavorful fruit. It is resistant to disease and does best in the foothills and interior regions. The Earlygold, resistant to anthracnose, performs well on the coast.

MID SEASON: The Nam Doc Mai is an excellent Thai variety which can be eaten when still green. It is a small tree. Mallika is another excellent tasting, small but productive, Thai variety, and it resistant to disease. The Valencia Pride, with sweet fruit and large tree size, performs well in San Diego.

LATE SEASON: The Kent was most frequently favored for its size and taste. It is a large tree. However, it can be subject to anthracnose disease.

The Keitt has exceptionally large fruit and is resistant to disease. It does best in interior regions. Tommy Atkins was mentioned as a large fruit, commercially grown mango, with poor flavor and much fiber. We were also favored by the visit of a couple from Australia who sang the praises of the Kensington Pride.

The evening was crowned by the sampling of mangos and vanilla ice cream, which go especially well together. Also, many of us participated in David's scientific pomegranate taste survey. Thanks for another great night everyone, and see you all November 15th.

Linnea Lamar

THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Here are the results of our pomegranate tasting at the last meeting. It was very interesting. There were 11 fruits officially in the tasting. Nine of these are the best of forty that I tasted in the field up at the experimental orchard near Davis, CA. Two of them were just randomly selected because I like their names. Next time I would prepare a form to make evaluation easier. I learned a couple of general things. People care more about sweetness than hard seeds. And it is more dramatic than the numbers show. Number 4 had big hard seeds, but good flavor with some sweetness. Number 11 had lovely soft seeds and a good tart flavor. All of number 4 was eaten. A lot of number 11 seeds went home for Zhenxing's rabbit. Tastes are also quite diverse. Different people have different preferences and different sensitivities. For example, number 8, Azadi, was the favorite of three people and the least favorite of one. Go figure. Some people have very low sensitivities to some or most flavors in the fruit. Some people are extra sensitive to certain flavors. I suspect that one taster's pleasant mild astringency is unpleasant bitterness to another. Some excellent fruits suffered for this. These fruits are good backyard fruits for the people who enjoy them. But their market potential is probably mediocre.

Here is how I scored these. There were 17 rating sheets turned in. I did not include myself in the numeric ratings. I counted first place, second place, and honorable mention (very good -- third or fourth ranked where indicated). That was all I could reliably do, since most people did not rank all the fruit because it was a very difficult task. But they often stated a favorite and sometimes also a close second. If not, it was usually easy to deduce a favorite and second favorite, and a particularly well liked one or two. Where a person ranked fruit equally, all fruit got the same rating. Favorite, second favorite, and honorable mention got 3, 2, and 1 point respectively. I added up the points for cumulative scores. Below I list representative comments from the sheets. Then numeric scores. Then my comments in italics. Take into account that I tasted these in the field and I also ate a few over a couple of days at home with my kids, so my perspective is a little different. But then again so are my tastes and flavor sensitivities. Note also that we tasted one variety, Pink Tourmaline, that was selected from a wild growing tree up in north county some place. This one was quite good, up there with the best of the sweet pink varieties. But there was only a little of it so only a few got to taste it. Finally, I think that there is a break point in the scores at around 11. At or above it is generally well liked. Below it may be slightly problematic.

1. [DPUN 107 Gissarskii Rozovyi](#) -- Pretty pink color. Tart. Mild good. Amazing soft seed. Fantastic. Tangy Good. Excellent, Tangy sub acid flavor. 8 out 10. Flavorful. A little tart.

First place -- 3. Second place -- 1. Honorable mention -- 1. = 12 POINTS

This is a wonderful sweet/tart refreshing fruit. Like lemonade with just the right amount of sugar in it. Seeds are very soft. Score is slightly depressed by the bias away from sour. I'd grow it.

2. [DPUN 134 Myatadzhy](#) -- Very Sweet. Sweet. Soft seed but less flavorful. So/so. Sweet good, hardly any seed. 2,7, 8, 9, indistinguishable. Very sweet. 7/10. Less flavorful. Mild.

First place --1. Second place -- 2. Honorable mention -- 4. = 9

Well, what can I say. It is good with soft seed, but not sufficiently distinguished from other similar ones. I did note in the field that it has pleasant nutty taste to the seeds. But I won't grow it.

3. [DPUN 136 Syunt](#) -- Sweet Delicate Flavor. Sweet watery. Mild. Ok. Sweet, Seeds chewy. Worst. Weak flavor 7/10. Bland. Sweet.

First place -- 1 Second place -- 3 Honorable mention -- 2 = 11

I think this is perfectly luscious and refreshing. Whoever called the flavor sweet and delicate agrees with me. Kids love it. Pink Tourmaline is similar. Azadi is also similar, but I think the seeds are bigger. Note though that it got a higher score. Though perhaps not significantly higher. Fruit are big and nice. Is reputed to be particularly pest resistant, partly due to its short mostly closed calyx.

4. [DPUN 154 Chernaya Roza](#) -- Very Tart. High seed volume. Hard Seed. Very tart. Sweet/Sour. 5/10 too sour. I like. A little seedy. A little tart.

First place -- 1 Honorable mention -- 2. = 5

This is one that we got because the name was evocative. It means "Black Rose". We had no taste data. Fruit was small but very dark. Even the spongy tissue inside was purple. Flavor was okay. But seeds were harder than wonderful. However they were a crunchy hard as opposed to the woody/fibrous hardness in some varieties. Extra high vitamin c content, but I won't grow it.

5. [DPUN 119 Kolobok](#) -- Good Sweet. Mild but Good. Orangie like a watery Orange. No taste. Ok. ? Orangy, slight bitterness. 6/10. Weak flavor. Ok. Good color. Good taste. Nice, sweet. Watery.

First place -- 3 Second place --1. = 11

This is the other one with no taste data. We got it because it is named after a Russian fairy tale character who is a big round dumpling that comes to life and goes through a series of adventures similar to our story of the gingerbread boy. In Russian you call something relatively big and round, like a large plump baby, a "Kolobok" after the fairy tale. (What a cutey. He's such a Kolobok.) I expected the fruit to be big. It wasn't, but it is pretty good. Seeds are even pretty soft. If I have a complaint though, it is that the arils are small. Still, good light pink and very juicy. In fact it is said to have juice yield between 60 and 70 per cent of total fruit weight.

6. [DPUN 15 Parfianka](#) -- Tart. Juicy. Sour/sweet. Sour. Strongest flavor. Very good. 7.5 out of 10. Good. Slight sweetness, juicy. Dark tart.

First place --3 Second place -- 1 = 11

I'm surprised it did not score higher. Could be that it loses some quality when shipped. I am presently growing it.

7. [DPUN 143 Sogdiana](#) -- Sweet, a bit diluted. Not sweet. Sweet. (Seed slightly bitter.) Good. Sort of Bitter. 2,7, 8, 9, indistinguishable. 7/10 juicy good flavor. Good. Nice color. Medium sweetness. Nice sweet, dark.

Second place -- 3 Honorable mention -- 1 = 7

I really like this one. The individual arils are quite big. The fruits are big and nice looking. It is highly rated for taste. I think the trouble here is that the flavor is a complex mix of astringency, sweetness, sourness, bitterness etc. I think that if you are sensitive to bitter, though, it just wrecks it for you.

8. [DPUN 135 Azadi](#) -- Very Sweet. Light in flavor. Bad -- Worst of the lot. Not Bad. Lots of seed, not so great. 2,7, 8, 9, indistinguishable. Good. Sweet indistinct flavor. 7/10 mild. Light color -- Sweetest. Best. Very nice.

First place--3 Second place--2 Honorable mention--1 = 14

Azadi is my second favorite of the sweet ones, with Syunt being first. This is liked a little better by the group. It too is reputed to be pest resistant. Its fruits are a bit smaller, but still nice. Its seeds are a little harder and bigger. I wasn't going to grow it, but it is probably worth growing. In addition, Azadi is a lovely word in Persian. It means something like "freedom" or "personal liberty".

9. [DPUN 109 Medovyi Vahsha](#) -- Slight bitterness in finish after sweet start. Tasteless -- Second worst. Ok. Really Bitter. Lots of seed. 2,7, 8, 9, indistinguishable. 7/10 Sweet, nice acid backing. Mild. Not much taste. Nice.

First place -- 2. Second place -- 2 = 10

It is similar to Sogdiana tipping slightly more in the direction of sweetness. If you added my opinion to the mix it would score over 11. The fruits aren't as big and attractive as Sogdiana. Looking at the comments, it is a controversial one. I'm growing it.

10. [DPUN 151 Sirenevyi](#) -- Very juicy. Very Sweet. Very Tasty. Great. Sweet. Juicy. Chewy seeds. Too Big (seeds? Fruit itself?). Average.7/10. bland. Best. Very Sweet great color. Bland.

First place -- 6. Second place -- 2 Honorable mention. -- 1 = 23

High score, and not a close call. This is interesting. It is a soft seeded one with one of those complex tastes like Sogdiana, but well balanced and with more sweetness. It also has appearance going for it. The fruit are large and attractive with light pink skin. You would expect a mild pink fruit. But inside, the arils are deep maroon/black, forming a spectacular contrast. Very refreshing.

11. [DPUN 125 Ariana](#) -- Very juicy. Nice Tart Sweet. Tart 6.5/10 ok. Tart, dark. A little too tart.

Second place -- 1 Honorable mention -- 1. = 3

It is too tart for me too. I won't grow it. I think that these fruits all had something to recommend them. If I had to choose my own favorites, I think that I would go with 1, 3, 6, and 10. I already have number 9 and I will keep it, as well as number 6. I will probably request wood of all of these, but Ariana for our scion exchange.

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
Barry Resetco (858) 278-3732 and Jack Skeels (619) 465-3312 – Facilities Team	Zhenxing Fu -- Newsletter Editor (858) 587-2723 editor@crfgsandiego.org
Linnea Lamar, Secretary, 619 392-9815 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
Oscar Butler – Librarian (858) 458-3533 mbutlar@pacbell.net	

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Kniffings Nursery is offering CRFG members 10 per cent off on trees. 14940 Oak Creek Rd. El Cajon, CA 92021 (619) 561-0611

Meritt Mountain Discount Nursery (Paul Fisher) is offering 20 % off on all trees. 1266 Vista del Monte, El Cajon, CA 92122 (619) 322-4141

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

NEXT Meeting:

WHERE: Casa del Prado Building Room 101, Balboa Park

WHEN: NOVEMBER 15, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

MEETING TOPIC: Presentation and Discussion VERTEBRATE PEST CONTROL.

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

CALENDAR == YEAR OF THE APPLE

Month	Meeting Topic	Event(s) For the Month
October 27 Casa del Prado 101	Mangos. Presentation and discussion on growing them. Pomegranate tasting.	
November 15 Casa del Prado 101	Back by popular demand, Terry Salmon will present Vertebrate Pest Control II, focusing this time on rats and gophers. Also, workable bird management techniques.	
FRIDAY December 16 Casa del Prado 101	Holiday Dinner, Elections and Gift Exchange	