



The Leaflett

California Rare Fruit Growers - Central Coast Chapter



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Its Still the Year of the Banana

According to Japan's *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper Professor Hiroshi Morishima of Nagoya City University has succeeded in making paper from banana stalks. The plant's fibers "are long and strong and are about the same good quality as the raw material for producing paper from Manila hemp". Machine-produced banana-stalk paper is comparable in quality to regular copy paper and it has proved to be stronger than recycled copy paper. "Bananas are produced in 123 countries throughout the world and 58,000,000 tons are produced annually, making it a promising resource," says the newspaper.

Think of the trees we can save, but I wonder if the newspaper will keep sliding off my porch?

Recent Happenings

May Monthly Meeting Arena Roses-Paso Robles

A rose is not just a rose...Arena Roses is a wholesale grower with sales of nearly one-half million, that's million roses, over 175 varieties of roses and many classic old roses. Syl and Amy Arena sell their roses to over 500 garden centers all over the country. Those who attended raved

about the beautiful colorful roses and the informative meeting. Arena Roses can be reached at (805) 238-1909. Thank you Syl and Amy!

June Monthly Meeting Huasna Valley Farm

Business: Last meeting minutes were read and approved.. **Program Chair**

Report: Joe Sabol handed out listings and directions for the next four monthly meetings. See the end of this newsletter for the updated list (if you are getting snail mail the new program is attached)

Treasurer's Report: We are still solvent with about \$3,000 in the treasury awaiting the purchase of the new audio equipment. Members were reminded that the community orchard was now bearing fruit and to visit the orchard and partake of the abundance.

Farm Tour: Members of this Community Supported Agriculture operation who subscribe to the farm for the growing season support a local family farm and receive fruit and vegetables harvested and delivered weekly fresh from the farm. The many challenges of this type of organic growing includes daily temperature ranges from 40's at night to over 100 during the day plus all the disease, fertilization, crop rotation and water and soil problems all farmers encounter. The Central Coast members

learned a great deal about how to face and conquer these and many other issues of organic farming. For information on the farm or to sign up contact Ron or Jenn Skinner at (805) 473-3827 or huasna@tcsn.net for more information.

Upcoming Events

See the attached (or the end of the e-mail newsletter) for a four month event list, thanks Joe!

Business meetings are held at 1:30 p.m. usually the second Saturday of the month. Joe will bring handouts to each meeting detailing events for the next 4-6 months. See the attached for information and directions. Remember to bring chairs and wear appropriate clothing. Refreshment groups for July, Group 2 (R-Z).

July Meeting - Dave Wilson Fruit Tasting - A Peachy Event

Those with a hankering for new varieties of fruit are in for a real treat-a real taste treat, that is-when Cal Poly's College of Agriculture hosts its first fruit tasting 1-5 p.m. in Room 100 of the Erhart Agriculture Building. This free event, sponsored in conjunction with the Dave Wilson Nursery of Reedley and Hickman will feature more than 25 different

varieties of fruit available for tasting, including the weeping Santa Rosa plum, whitelady peach, mericrest nectarine, flavor queen pluot (a cross between a plum and an apricot and the Arctic Jay White nectarine.) The tasting is intended as a fun and educational public event. For more information, contact Joe Sabol at (805) 756-7225.

August - Festival of Fruit- Santa Barbara...

A registration form for the Festival of Fruit state meeting is attached to this newsletter (or e-mail). This is going to be a fun informative gathering. If you are getting the newsletter by e-mail you can download the attachment (Word file) or view and print it.

Tips for Tomato Growers

by Art Henzgen

The TOMATO is undoubtedly the most universally planted of all plants. It is a subtropical plant, therefore should not be planted outside until a danger of frost has passed. Plants should be hardened off (eased into the sun) over a few days to avoid shock before planting in the ground. They should be placed deeply in the ground so that only 3 or 4 inches show above the soil. This gives the plants a much stronger rooting system. If plants are very tall and leggy, they can be placed horizontally in a long trough with only the top showing above ground. To many people's surprise,

the tomato is a drought tolerant plant. Many gardeners tend to overwater it. Except for initial thorough watering when placing the plant in the ground, the tomato plant will do better with minimum watering. Of course, if the plant starts to wilt, it obviously needs watering. Plants should produce fruit in 60 to 100 days from planting outdoors. Add another 6-8 weeks when starting from seed. Size and variety of plant, location in the garden and hot and cold weather will affect amount of time to harvest. When fertilizing, use tomato or all purpose fertilizer. Because soil tends to retain tomato diseases such as verticillium, fusarium wilt, tobacco mosaic, etc, it is most advisable to put tomato plants in a new location or in new potting soil each year. Plants around SLO, Arroyo Grande and Nipomo will need either morning or afternoon sun, but not necessarily both Ditto for plants north of Cuesta Grade. Plants grown near the ocean will probably need full sun. Plants ideally will be dark green as they mature. After plants are established, if they are light green, they are getting too much water. Tomato plants may be grown in the ground or in containers of 5 gallon or large. A smaller container may be used for patio tomato. Happy Planting!

Announcements

Thank You Crowes! Visit the Community Orchard...John Crowe and his wife spent a good part of the day on June 19th with chain saw and pruning shears trimming the heavy shade trees that border our CRFG Community

Orchard. This will allow much more sun to hit our trees, especially in the a.m.. We have lots of fruit so visit the orchard!

Wanted...House apartment building, old farm house, with or without acreage in Cal Poly area. Contact Al and Dawn King (805) 736-0449 or aldawn@earthlink.net.

Joe Sabol has owls..After four years a pair nested in Joe's owl box and produced four offspring. Hopefully they will stick around and keep the gopher population in check!

We still need a coffee coordinator...The chapter still needs a coffee coordinator to bring coffee to the business meetings. The chapter picks up the cost. Contact Chuck Atlee at catlee@calpoly.edu



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