



Central Coast Chapter CRFG October 2020 Newsletter

by CRFG CC Chapter Members
Editor: Dara Manker

Dear Friends of the Fruiting Plants:

Thank you to those who contributed articles to the October newsletter! Here are the stories and tips.

Please consider contributing. It can be a few sentences or span several pages. You can send your text and pictures in different emails- whatever is easiest for you. We are eager to see what you've been up to! Send your story and pictures to crfgccnewsletter@gmail.com. November newsletter deadline is Sunday, November 22nd.

Winner Of September's "Guess The Answer" Contest:



In last month's newsletter we posed this question, inspired from a suggestion by Evelyn: Where and when was this picture taken? Our winner is Tree Lees, who nailed the event and location, and won an apple tree! Answer in caption above.

October "Guess The Answer" Contest



In 2019, Myron Heaven won first place in the "Ugly Fruit Contest" with his entry of this odd-looking fruit. In fact, its odd appearance initially threw off the judges about which fruit it was. **This month's question is, what did this mysterious fruit turn out to be?** Email your answer to crgccnewsletter@gmail.com. First correct answer wins your choice of a 7 month grafted Gala or Pink Lady apple tree, two dragon fruit plants, or a 1 foot tall Kei apple tree!

Giant Seeds!

While the seeds aren't necessarily giants, the vegetables and flowers they produce certainly are! Go to the "[World Class Gardening](#)" **website** and check out these giants! Thanks to Rick Tibben (we [visited his home](#) for our October 2019 meeting and witnessed the giant pumpkins for ourselves) who sent this link to Joe Sabol, who passed it on to us.

Two Acre Ranchette in East Paso Robles

CRFG members Barbara and Matthew Forbes are selling their 2 acre property at [6950 Chardonnay Place](#) in eastern Paso Robles (near Highway 46). They hosted our [2019 May meeting](#) at their home. It is an incredible place with mature fruit trees, roses and shade trees.



This is how Barbara describes it:

"If you know anyone who may be thinking of buying in North County let them know. We have two acres. Lots of established garden, established trees, and room for animals, nice dog kennel, chicken area, horses or other farm animals in the back. We also have solar panels we own. So ideal for someone who loves to work in the yard. A realtor gave us an estimate of \$625 to \$650K."

"Draw back is we only have 2 large bedrooms and a family may want more. But reconfiguring for a third bedroom or (building up) is possible and would be much cheaper than putting in all of the landscaping, water, out buildings, fencing, etc. And faster than waiting for large shade and fruit trees."

"Would prefer to sell to someone who will keep it up and improve it, not just let it go. Someone who knows the work it takes. A newbie gardener may not realize all that is needed."

Home Orchard Report

By Larry Hollis

My Hass and Wurtz avo trees produced nice sized fruit this year and much of it was still on the trees when the record setting 120 degree temperature



surprised us recently. Even though I had watered the trees just prior to that hot day it wasn't enough. Had I known how hot it was going to get, I might have soaked the soil adequately. And, had I not driven to Cambria in search of cool air that day I might have still been able to protect the trees more. As it happened though, both my trees got pretty singed, along with some of the fruit.



Tamarillo tree (tree tomato) with ripe fruit. The Tamarillo Tree was also damaged by the extreme 120-degree temperature and some of the fruit was burned and fell, others seem to be fine. Tamarillos are used in a variety of ways, from spread on toast in NZ to Kombucha teas in the Americas.



This from [Wikipedia](#):

"The **tamarillo** is a small tree or shrub in the flowering plant family *Solanaceae* (the nightshade family). It is best known as the species that bears the **tamarillo**, an egg-shaped edible fruit. It is also known as the **tree tomato, tomate de árbol, tomate andino, tomate serrano, blood fruit, tomate de yuca, tomate de españa, sachatomate, berenjena** and **tamamoro** in South America, and **terong Belanda** (Dutch eggplant) in Indonesia. They are popular globally, especially in Peru, Colombia, New Zealand, Ecuador, Rwanda, Australia, and the United States."

"Prior to 1967, the fruit was known as the "tree tomato" but the new name tamarillo (which was not the name in Spanish or any other language) was chosen by the New Zealand Tree Tomato Promotions Council in order to distinguish it from the ordinary garden tomato and increase its exotic appeal."

You can't grow papayas here can you? I find that they do pretty well on the sunny side of the house.



Young Shanxi Li jujube tree with ripe fruit.

fruit. Due to the lack of space in my orchard, I am growing it as a columnar tree. I saw a good example of columnar trained jujube, loaded with fruit, in the L.A. Arboretum when we were down there for the Festival of Fruit. This variety is said to produce some of the largest fruit, up to 2" in diameter, and is self-fruitful. This is the second year my tree has fruited and the fruit has yet to reach 2", but next year.... Also, the tree has produced some small fruit with no seeds, so I suspect a pollination problem which may be due to the tree's youth. I hope to graft another cultivar onto it this year which may help with pollination, and give me a second variety. By the way, the fruit from my tree here in SLO, tastes great.



Some years ago Joe Sabol acquired a quantity of **Early Wonderful pomegranate trees** for the chapter and I bought one and trained it as a standard shape tree. It has become quite productive and is also quite attractive. The fruit has a nice sweet-tart flavor and the arils are semi-soft seeded and I use them in my fruit and vegetable salads. The photo to the right shows the tree drooping from the weight of the fruit.

Recently a few dozen fruits split while on the tree, perhaps I watered too near to the tree, so I picked them and offered them to a friend who wanted to experiment with ways to extract the juice. She then



cooked some of the juice down and made pomegranate molasses, an ingredient used in Middle Eastern cooking. Here are some recipes:

- <https://www.thekitchn.com/5-ways-to-use-pomegranate-molasses-ingredient-intelligence-202643>
- <https://food52.com/blog/3890-unsung-ingredient-pomegranate-molasses>
- <https://thishealthytable.com/blog/pomegranate-molasses/>

My **Conadria fig** is too vigorous for its own good and a fully loaded 6' branch broke under the weight of the fruit.



My neighbor is a vineyardist, among other talents, and he prunes his **Brown Turkey fig** back hard every year, similar to how he would prune grapevines. Like grapevines, the tree then puts out many new vigorous shoots of 6' or more.



Since figs produce the main crop of fruit on the current year's wood these new shoots have a fig at almost every leaf axil. Unlike me, I don't think he has ever had any branches break due to weight.

I started my **White Sapote tree** from seed and planted it in my orchard when it was already about two years old. Another year passed before I managed to get scion wood and graft it. The Vernon and Santa Cruz branches grew vigorously



and set fruit in the second year after being grafted. The Vernon fruit was near softball size and the branch had to be propped up to keep it from breaking.



Most of my stone fruit set heavy crops again this year requiring quite a bit of thinning. Here are a few mid to later varieties:

Splash pluots





Shiro plum

Mid-pride
peaches



I grew some birdhouse gourds on my cobbled-together orchard entrance arbor last year. I gave some of the gourds to an artsy friend and she reciprocated with this birdhouse.



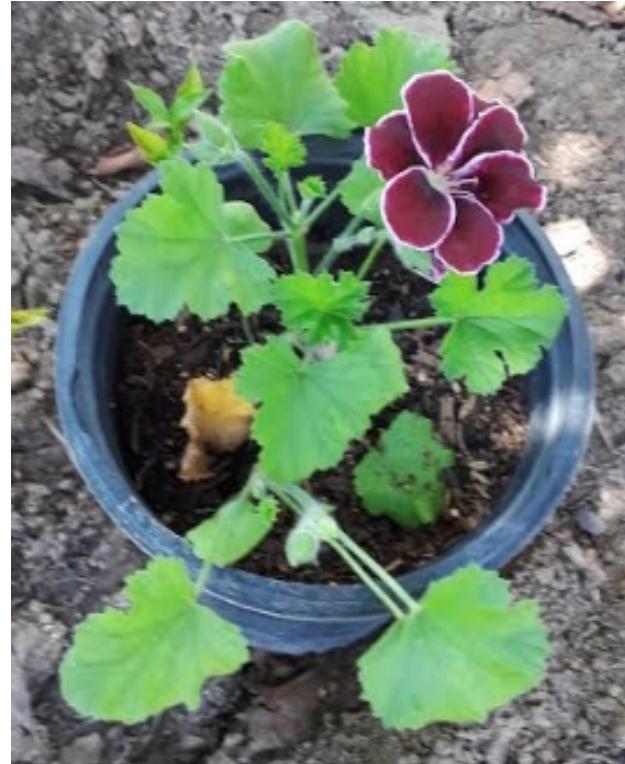
There are probably a dozen apple varieties grafted onto this small tree. This results in several varieties flowering at the same time and is likely the cause of my having to thin so much. But, that's better than the alternative.

Geranium Flower Via A Leaf

by Manny Magaña

This story starts in early February, when Dara and I went to Santa Barbara to pick up a Craigslist under-the-counter-radio for my kitchen. We completed the transaction and were on our way home when we decided to stop for lunch before leaving Santa Barbara.

On the way back to the car after lunch, Dara saw a beautiful blooming reddish/purplish geranium growing on a house's front yard. Since she will not steal any plants, I volunteered to steal a piece of this geranium. [*Editor's comment: for what it's worth, it should be noted that this plant was ranging out over a public sidewalk.*] She shrugged, deferred to my judgement and finally acquiesced to my stealing a piece.



We got home, Dara took the piece of geranium and went home. Here's where this story gets interesting. While cleaning up, I noticed that two leaves of the geranium were left over. My brain wondered if a plant would grow from a leaf. The two leaves were placed in a pot along with a cherimoya that was trying to recover from the winter cold.

After a month, one of the leaves dried up, but the other continued to be green. The pot was watered every three or four days for about three months with no activity from either the leaf nor the cherimoya. Shortly after the third month, the geranium started to grow two branches. Now it is a beautiful little bush about 8 inches in height. It has flowered a couple of times, several beautiful reddish/purplish flowers.

The cherimoya...it never recovered. It died a quiet, peaceful death.