



<http://www.crfg-la.org>

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

2018 Volume XXIII Issue 6

FIELD TRIP: Kim Nguyen's home

Date: November 17, 2018 at 10:00 am

Place: Private residence

Program: Garden tour & potluck lunch

MEMBERS ONLY, PLEASE (Please observe "CRFG Tour Etiquette".) "Living in the green always makes me happy and joyful."

The first thing Kim did when she bought her house three years ago was remove the grass in the back yard. After that it was plants, plants, plants! Most prominent is the enormous avocado which came with the house, to which she has added many standard fruits (apples, citrus, and pomegranates) and many exotic fruits (papaya, jaboticaba, wax jambu, and carambola). She also has an incredible variety of rare and exotic Asian plants, succulents, and orchids. When you visit Kim's garden you will also meet a wonderful small dog named Sumo.

CRFG PLANT AUCTION: Some of Kim's plants will be auctioned off, with all proceeds going to the CRFG.

POTLUCK LUNCH: Everyone is asked to please bring something to share.

MEETING: Holiday party

Date: December 15, 2018 at 10:00 am

Place: Sepulveda Gardens

16633 Magnolia Blvd, Encino, CA 91316

Program: Our annual CRFG-LA Holiday Party!

MEMBERS (and significant others) ONLY, PLEASE

All Members: please bring something for our lunch table.

Remember this is a full meal, not just snacks. It is a chance to prepare your favorite dish. Please bring a dish that serves 8 - and it would be great if you would include the recipe. Bring food to share and wear colors of the Season! Once again we can look forward to Marcia Melcombe and Mark Nudelman entertaining us with some wonderful music!

Please bring plants and other items for the raffle/sale. We will also have a white elephant gift exchange, so if you want to participate, wrap up something you think others would like; it does not have to be new, but in "gently used condition." Those that bring a gift will receive a raffle ticket at the door.

SAVE THE DATES - **CALENDAR FOR 2019 LA CHAPTER**

- January 26 Sepulveda Gardens - Scion Exchange
- February 23 Sepulveda Gardens
- March 16 Field Trip - Sylmar High School
- April 27 Field Trip
- May 25 Sepulveda Gardens
- June 22 Field Trip
- July 27 Sepulveda Gardens
- August 24 Field Trip
- September 28 Sepulveda Gardens
- October 26 Field Trip
- November 23 Field Trip
- December 14 Sepulveda Gardens

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Words From Our Chairman



As we head into the end of the year, we have November and December meetings you won't want to miss. I always enjoy going on tours of our members' gardens to see how they have planted and maintain their gardens.

I think we all enjoy seeing the passion that our members have and how they are able to put that into their gardens. We all have those special plants and trees that we enjoy taking care of and this is an opportunity to share that passion with our fellow Fruit Growers.

One of my favorite fruits, the pomegranate, is getting ready to harvest at this time of the season and maybe we can all bring samples of our different varieties of pomegranates we grow for our members to sample after the tour of Kim's garden. Several years ago we all had an opportunity to purchase different Russian varieties of pomegranate trees and by now there should be quite a sample available from our members.

As we head into the holidays, our December CRFG party is always a highlight of the year for all of us. Be sure to read the newsletter to learn about all the events happening at the holiday party, including the entertainment we have that we all enjoy so much.

As we approach the 2019 year, consider allowing us to tour your home garden to see how you have expressed your passion for growing fruit trees. Also, please keep your eyes out for opportunities of places that our group would enjoy touring and let our tour coordinator know.

Tony

LOOKING BACK

By Debbie Schopper and Debbie Oisboid

September Meeting

Chairman Tony Stewart welcomed members to our meeting and spoke of the problem facing our city regarding the mosquito infestation, and he warned us to keep an eye out for standing water on our properties where mosquitoes could be laying eggs.

Mike Bernard, a horticulture student at Pierce College, along with two other students, addressed our club. Mike shared their plan to reestablish and revitalize the orchard that once existed at the community college. (See article below.)

Member Charles Portney donated over 300 items for our plant sale/auction and many other members also donated their items. So, with a huge assortment of plants, trees, seeds and cookbooks, Charles described each item displayed. Items included cape gooseberry, chocolate persimmons, hachiya persimmons, cardoon, sugar cane, loquats, yellow pepinos, papaya, dragon fruit varieties, tamarillos, paprika seeds, rose apples, Becky's Mystery banana, ornamental grasses, succulents, scented geraniums, goji berry seeds, cotton trees, fig, red leaf hibiscus, angel's trumpet, euphorbia, creeping rosemary, cherry of the Rio Grande, Big Jim loquat, Pakistan mulberry, white sapote, and more! Most members also left with a cookbook or two.

Jorge Ochoa was our guest speaker. His slide presentation was titled: Fruits of the Urban Landscape. Jorge is the director and instructor of the Horticulture Program at Long Beach City College. His travels take him around the world finding, tasting, then lecturing on rare fruits. His challenge to us is to try new fruits! Go to the small ranch markets, visit swap meets, and look through neighborhoods to discover where rare fruit trees are grown. Then plant what you like, experiment, sample, ask questions. And what has he found? Stores are selling coconut water from a carton, coconuts with spouts drilled into them, frozen Jack fruit, baby Jack fruit, dragon fruit and their flowers, and so much more.

He showed us many slides of rare fruit trees such as Jack fruit growing and thriving in Long Beach and, along a street in South Gate, macadamia trees. Jorge's top three rated apples were 1. Envy Apple 2. Emerald Green 3. Pink Pearl.

And we heard this more than once: "How many of you have tried fresh dates, or Sumo mandarins, or fresh pistachio, or... ? What? You should be ashamed!" Or, "...congratulations!" Jorge brought us fruits to sample, seeds to sell, information, challenges and lots of humor!

October Meeting

Charles Malki of IV Organic started the day by handing out quiz sheets to everyone. We learned about the six MacroNutrients that every plant needs (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Magnesium, Sulfur, and Calcium), and were also challenged to name the eight MicroNutrients. (Iron, Boron, Zinc, Copper, Nickel, Manganese, Molybdenum, and - yes - Chlorine!!)

We were quizzed about which season you do NOT fertilize your plants (winter, because the soil is asleep and the plants can't take up the nutrients), but learned that foliar feeding is ok in winter if a plant is producing at that time.

We learned that in addition to protecting it from sun scald, painting whitewash on a tree also helps keep the body of the tree cool in late winter and early spring to prevent fruit trees from blooming too soon. He recommends whitewashing when first planting a tree, immediately after pruning, and when transplanting. Whitewash can also be used as a sealant on newly cut branches.

Most people use diluted interior latex paint (1 part paint to 2 parts water) as whitewash, but Charles recommends the IV Organic brand, which contains all the Macro and Micro nutrients that plants need and which does not leave little chips of chemicals to flake off and remain in the ground for years.

When discussing milkweed, Charles taught us the difference between a cocoon (spun around a caterpillar) and a chrysalis (formed when a caterpillar sheds its skin), and when is the best time to prune back Tropical milkweed (the second week in December to prevent Monarchs from laying eggs to

die during the winter).

Finally he raffled off some of the IV Organic products (whitewash and fertilizers) and some lovely plants ("Big Jim" loquats from seed, a tray of groundcover, some milkweed plants, and some baby fan palms).

It was a very informative and fun meeting, and we thank Charles for sharing so much with us.

Bringing Back a Piece of Pierce

By Deborah Oisboid, Editor

In 1947, when Pierce College in Woodland Hills first opened their doors, Los Angeles was the leading agriculture county in the United States.

By the early 1970's the college had some 2,000 students taking agriculture classes. Hundreds of cattle, sheep, pigs, and poultry made up the livestock portion of the farm. A fifteen acre orchard, green houses and fields were used to educate the students. As the school's goals changed, many of the fields and animals went away. There are still a few fields, but no orchards and no greenhouses.

One student remembers going into the fields to pick fruit on weekends. This memory was part of the inspiration for his Student Graduation Project Class: to attempt to restore what once was.

Michael Bernard was a guest-speaker at our September CRFG-LA meeting, along with a few of his fellow students at Pierce College. He told us about his project to start a Learning Orchard at Pierce College. He proposed the idea at the start of the fall semester to the Agriculture Department Chairperson, Savannah St. Clair, who excitedly told him she had the same vision. Apparently, when she became Department Chair, she also saw the need for an orchard.

He was approved to develop a 1/3 acre plot. He has laid out an ambitious draft for the orchard, including over 50 citrus, avocados, mangoes, stone fruits, sub-tropicals, and low-chill trees, with multiple varieties of each cultivar for in-field evaluation and experimentation. He also plans to plant dragon fruit and passion fruit vines along the perimeter fence.

It can be said that Michael is spearheading and coordinating the effort, but he is not alone. Other students are involved, because almost all the Plant Science classes touch on some aspect of orchard dynamics – specifically, fruit culture, soil science, irrigation, integrated pest management, and propagation.



Mike (center) and friends William Veliz (left) and Guillermo Veliz (right), showing about half the plot and some citrus trees.

Mike told me, "Every college/university that I have visited with an agriculture program has orchards. However, we want this orchard to be more than just servicing students' needs. We are currently discussing how to relate to the community. Attending the CRFG meeting was part of this process. It was an eye-opener for me seeing so many people vitally interested in fruit culture."

Mike's goal for the orchard is to allow 5 different classes to learn in situ. He also hopes that once the 1/3 acre proves successful, the students will be given access to more land on campus to grow and learn.

With time growing short as the end of the semester approaches, Mike would appreciate some help.

What does he need? Trees, money, advice, support. Our own Edgar Valdivia visited his class in September and talked about tropical fruit and dragon fruit. Perhaps our CRFG chapter could help with a lesson on grafting in January?

Mike also has a good friend in Guillermo Veliz, an importer of Central and South American fruits

and other products, who has a great enthusiasm for growing fruit in California, as well as many helpful contacts.

Meanwhile, a few citrus trees have been planted in the designated area, and there are plans for a major purchase of trees from LaVerne Nursery with the funds he has raised so far. However, he still needs at least 50 additional trees (and funding to procure them).

If anyone would like to help with a donation, cash or trees, please contact the newsletter editor at editor@CRFG-LA.org for Mike's contact information. All donations must be accounted for by The Foundation for Pierce College. There are forms for cash and other forms for plant donations. All checks should be made payable to the "Foundation for Pierce College".

History of Pierce College taken from:
<http://www.piercecollege.edu/departments/agriculture>

The Anatomy of Garden Weeds: Part 4

By Roy Imazu, Contributing member

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not constitute any kind of endorsement or approval by the CRFG. CRFG does not endorse products.

In later articles, I will discuss how to handle various difficult weeds and other unwanted vegetation. Their cure will come down to using Roundup in a special way.

The usual method is to spray with a 2% solution, which translates to 2 oz per gallon of spray. This solution is the common method for eradicating many annual and perennial weeds. If the unwanted vegetation is a small tree or bush, other methods need to be considered. When the concentration is increased to 33-1/3% (in other words, 1 part Roundup to 2 parts water) a little goes a long way! The addition of a red or blue dye will help in locating where this herbicide was applied.

Cuts need to be along the trunk so that this Roundup solution applied with a small brush will be absorbed along the cambium layer area. Cuts made in a "V" pattern will increase the absorption area. To deal with the weed via the leaves, numerous dabs of the concentrated Roundup upon the foliage will do the job. If the plant is cut leaving a stump,

painting along the cambium layer with the spray solution will be effective.

Be sure to read the label. Pay particular attention to the precautionary statements and the personal protective equipment needed to apply the chemical.

Protecting a New Variety: Plant Patents, Trademarking, and PVP

By Deborah Oisboid, Editor

With our annual scion exchange coming up in January, it seemed like a good idea to look closer at plant patents. After all, we should not be bringing patented scions to the exchange.

A patent protects the owner's right to exclude others from reproducing the plant, and from using, selling, or importing the plant – or even a part of the plant. Most plant patents last twenty years from the filing date.

Each time a patented plant sells, a royalty goes to the nursery or entity that owns the patent. However, the cost to patent a single variety of plant is thousands of dollars, and there are no guarantees that anyone will want the patented version.

According to the U.S. Patent Office, a plant patent is granted to a "distinct and new variety of plant" which is asexually reproduced. The exceptions are tubers or plants found in an uncultivated state. (Algae and macro-fungi are regarded as plants, but bacteria are not.)

Asexual reproduction is propagation without the use of fertilized seeds. It ensures an exact genetic copy of the plant being reproduced. Some asexual reproduction methods include:

Rooting Cuttings	Grafting and Budding
Bulbs	Rhizomes
Runners	Corms
Division	Slips
Layering	Tissue Culture

A plant patent is limited to one plant or genome. Note that a sport or a mutant is not likely to have the same genotype as the original plant, and would not be covered by the parent plant's patent.

All patented plants are supposed to display a tag with the patent number, and be listed in trade publications and catalogs. Plant patents begin with the letters 'PP' and can be searched at www.uspto.gov

I wanted to know if Honeycrisp apples have an active patent, so I used the advanced search function at <http://patft.uspto.gov/netahtml/PTO/search-bool.html>

I entered "PP" in the Patent Number field AND "Honeycrisp" in All Fields.

Query [Help]	
Term 1: <input type="text" value="PP"/>	in Field 1: <input type="text" value="Patent Number"/>
AND <input type="text" value="v"/>	
Term 2: <input type="text" value="Honeycrisp"/>	in Field 2: <input type="text" value="All Fields"/>
Select years [Help]	
<input type="text" value="1976 to present [full-text]"/>	<input type="button" value="Search"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>

The results included over 30 apple trees, but only one with "Honeycrisp" in the name. That patent (PP7197) was filed in 1988 and approved in 1990. Since this is outside of the 20 year limit, it may be safe to assume we can share Honeycrisp apple scions.

Possession of illegally propagated plants of a patented species is infringement, even if the reproduction is inadvertent.

It is interesting to note that plant patents do not cover Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). Instead, Utility patents are used to protect species created from advanced scientific breeding, particularly where the unique characteristics are genetically modified. This type of patent has been around since the 1980s. Utility patent-eligible plants may be reproduced either from seeds (sexually) or asexually.

In the GMO industry, Utility patents can be used to protect specific elements of a plant such as proteins, genes or DNA strands, buds, pollen or fruit. Utility patents are also appropriate for plant-based chemicals as well as any processes used to make these products. Plants that are resistant to pesticides or herbicides also fall into this category.

To get a Utility patent, the plant must be made by humans and fit the requirements of providing utility, novelty, and be a nonobvious creation. Outside of the United States, novel plants are protected by "Plant Breeders Rights."

Then there are trademarks, which protect a word,

name, symbol, or device. Trademarks distinguish the products of one manufacturer or seller from another in the same market. This is significantly different from a plant patent, which legally controls, permits, or excludes the production of a plant variety.

On the other hand, trademarking is one way for those in the nursery industry to receive recognition for their plants. It is often faster and cheaper than applying for a patent and is renewable every ten years.

Trademarking can help a company build brand loyalty. But a trademark only protects the name of the plant, not the plant itself (which is what a patent does). Any person can propagate a trademarked plant, name it something different, and it will still be legal. But only if it does not already have a patent. For example the "Cripps Pink" apple is trademarked as "Pink Lady". The patent belongs to "Cripps Pink" (PP7880, filed in 1990 and approved in 1992).

Another type of restriction is Plant Variety Protection (PVP). This is a certification process that allows some degree of exclusivity over certain plant varieties that have been either invented or discovered. Since the primary goal of PVP systems is the protection of natural material, breeders' rights do not cover any "technical processes" used in the propagation of the varieties. In other words, PVP doesn't protect breeding propagation of the plant. In these cases, a breeder needs to get a patent.

PVP varies from patenting in other ways. It is less expensive to get, the proof and documentation requirements are less intensive, and the types of plants that can be protected are not limited as they are in plant patenting. On the other hand, there is less legal protection. For example, farmers can save and reuse seeds from protected plants or sell the seeds for use on other farms.

Types of plants covered under PVP are sexually (seed) reproduced plants, tuber propagated plants, and F1 hybrids. Fungi, bacteria, and first generation hybrid varieties are not covered.

Article reference sources:

<https://www.uspto.gov/patents.../patent...patent.../general-information-about-35-usc-161>

<https://www.uspto.gov/patents-getting-started/patent-basics/types-patent-applications/general-information-about-35-usc-161>

<https://www.upcounsel.com/plant-patent>

CRFG "Good Guests Guide": Tour Etiquette Do's and Don'ts

By Deborah Oisboid, Editor

(The following list is a modified reprint from the 2016 Nov-Dec CRFG Newsletter. Please mind the list for the coming home visit as well as future tours. Thank you for following these garden etiquette tips while visiting homes, nurseries, growers, etc.)

1. CRFG tours are for members only. No friends or children, please, and no pets. (A private residence is not legally required to admit Service Animals.)
2. Please be aware there may not be restrooms available so do your best to use public facilities and restrooms before the tour.
3. Please do not ask to go inside the hosts' home.
4. Never pick fruit, flowers, foliage, weeds, seedpods etc. (Don't even ask.)
5. If you can, please car pool. Park with great respect to our host and the neighborhood.
6. Please do not talk when our host is talking.
7. Please do not "take over" the tour and tell everyone how we do it at our home!!
8. Please do have thoughtful questions.
9. Always do your best to help our host feel appreciated. Clean up any mess before leaving.
10. Always stay on the path. Do not go walking around unless given permission by the host.

Letters to the Editor

Have a suggestion? A question? A story to share? Send it to editor@crfg-la.org and see it published here!