



PRESS RELEASE



RARE FRUIT CONFERENCE

July 9 - 13, 2014

Sponsored by the Tropical Fruit & Vegetable Society of the Redland & the Fruit & Spice Park

24801 SW 187th Avenue, Homestead, Florida 33031

Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces Department

The Rare Fruit Conference has been held a dozen times at the Fruit & Spice Park since its conception in 1984. It features visits to botanical gardens, research stations and programs on rare tropical fruit.

Rare Fruit Conference Highlights

Tours:

- Florida Key Fruit Safari – This tour will visit the historic Grimal Estate, famous for its rare tropical fruit trees, an 80 year old sapodilla grove and native plant habitats of the Florida Keys.
- USDA-ARS-SHRS, National Germplasm Repository – This active USDA Station conducts agricultural research and maintains collection of important fruit crops. Visit a mango breeding program.
- The Kampong, National Botanical Garden – this magnificent historic garden was the home of Dr. David Fairchild and is now part of the National Botanical Garden.
- TREC, University of Florida, Homestead – Part of the University of Florida the exciting research station has been involved with agricultural research and experimentation for many years.
- Montgomery Botanical Center - A nonprofit botanic garden established in 1959, Montgomery Botanical Center keeps living specimens from wild plant populations worldwide. Emphasizing palms and cycads. The 120-acre botanical site is a garden of exemplary design and great beauty.
- The Fruit & Spice Park, operated by the Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department, grows more than 500 varieties of sub-tropical fruits, herbs, spices, vegetables and nuts from around the world on 39 lush acres in the agricultural Redland. The park offers daily botanical tours, fruit tasting and workshops.

Presentations & Tastings

- *"Mango Tasting" by Crafton Clift*
- *"Developing the Farmer Chef Relations in Hawaii" by Ken Love*
- *"Myrciaria/Plinia Species" by Adam Shafran*
- *"Wilson Popenoe, The Original Indiana Jones" by Juanita Popenoe*
- *"Fruit Parks of Japan" by Ken Love*
- *"34 Years at the Fruit & Spice Park" by Chris Rollins*

Conference Fees

- Full Event Fee per participant: \$150.00
- Weekend Fee: \$100.00
- Student (must show valid School ID): \$75.00
- Make Checks Payable to: TFVSR
(Tropical Fruit & Vegetable Society of the Redland)

Preregistration: Dr. Paulette Johnson

- v. Email: paulet37@bellsouth.net

Mail to: Paulette Johnson/Rare Fruit Conference
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For information contact Chris Rollins, Fruit & Spice Park Manager, 305-242-7934 or rollins@miamidade.gov

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