LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

2021 Volume XXVI Issue 4

http://www.crfg-la.org

CRFG-LA meetings at Sepulveda Garden Center are currently suspended. We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy.

ZOOM MEETING:
Saturday, July 24, 10:00 am
Host: George Campos' Garden
Topic: Virtual Garden Tour

George's garden is an ever-evolving, charming, colorful, magic story-book garden with flat lands, steep hills, unique districts and neighborhoods, varied water features — pools, waterfalls — bountiful fruit trees, beautiful flowers, and much more. (You may even come upon a giant outdoor brick pizza oven and three great dogs who are thrilled you came!) It is like no other home garden we've been to!

ZOOM MEETING:
Saturday, August 28, 10:00 am
Speaker: Ross Radi
Topic: Wonderful World of Figs

Have you had the pleasure of eating fresh figs off a tree? Have you ever had the opportunity to enjoy fig honey? Did you know figs are one of those rare fruits that can mimic any flavor you can imagine? Join us for a special August meeting as Ross Radi delves into the wonderful world of figs and the unimaginable diversity of this amazing plant!

Ross will be talking about the fantastic journey of growing figs. Why you should get into them, what are the best ways, what benefits you may see along the way, the stories behind some figs, flavors, textures, genetic diversity, and a whole lot more!

Rosss Radi is a fig enthusiast and well known YouTube gardener. He is well known in the fig community and is the creator of Fig Boss, a blog for everything figs (www.figboss.com). Ross's mission is to spread the obsession of growing figs to your backyard.

***LOCAL PEST ALERT*: See "Black Fig Fly" article toward the end of this newsletter.**

CALENDAR FOR LA CHAPTER 2021

Sept 25	Dr. Niamh Quinn – Ground Squirrels in the home garden
October 23	Bill Brandt – Virtual garden tour
Nov 20	Dr. Shengrui Yao – Jujubes
Dec 18	Holiday Party

2021 Chapter Officers & Committees

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Words From Our Chairman

By Jerry Schwartz

(Jerry is taking a break from all this heat. No Chairman's Column in this issue.)

LOOKING BACK

By Deborah Oisboid, Editor

May 22 – Mark Steele's Orchard Tour

In which we learn new vocabulary words can be fun!

Over 30 people attended the Zoom tour of Mark Steele's lovely garden. He had two or three personal guests as well. This was fortunate because video reception in his front yard was particularly troublesome, and the ability to switch to someone else's phone allowed us to get the full tour.

Mark lives a few miles from the beach, and is fortunate to not have to water too often because of the significant moisture level in the air. His front yard is somewhat shaded by an enormous ornamental tree planted by the city, yet he still manages to pack in a wonderful variety of the fruit trees he loves to grow. However, with a small yard, he has to pack it in tightly. So he grafts. A LOT.

He told us, "anything I CAN graft, I DO graft!" One fig tree in particular has over 100 varieties on it, all nicely labeled. His personal gardening philosophy is to plant things that make fruit, although he makes some exceptions for beauty, scent, and bee/hummingbird attractors. (There is still a 10-foot tall camellia tree from the previous homeowners.) Mostly it's an "expensive food forest," as he described it.

"I'm a biologist at heart"

Mark has a scientific background and an erudite way with words. We got quite an education, and not just about plants. The day's vocabulary lesson included the terms:

Apical Dominance (n) – the suppression of lateral (side) leaf and bud growth, due to hormones produced in the tip of a branch. (More growth at the top and less growth at the sides.)

Peduncle (n) – [Botany] (1) A flower stalk, supporting either a cluster or a solitary flower. (2) The stalk bearing the fruiting body in fungi.

Bract (n) - (Botany) A small, leaf-like growth just below a flower or flower stalk. Most bracts are thin and inconspicuous, but some are brightly colored.

Lignified (v) – to become wood or woody, to convert into wood.

The first thing we learned is that passionfruit are not pollinated by honeybees, but by bumblebees. Then we got into bananas, which he particularly loves.

Mark's backyard fruit adventures began with bananas. His two favorites are the largest stands in his yard: Dwarf Namwah and Dwarf Brazilian. He calls these two bananas "must-grow" varieties because they are tasty and short and easier to grow.

He has grown about 35 different varieties of bananas over the years, but he's down to about 5 now: Dwarf Namwah, Dwarf Brazilian, Goldfinger, Becky's Mystery, SH6640, and Raja Puri (similar flavor to Brazilian).

People talk about the "ice cream" banana. Apparently this can be confusing - most of the ones in the US are mislabeled, and are actually a Namwah variety. How can you tell the difference? You can narrow it down based on a few traits, but you can't really be 100% sure until they bear fruit.

One distinguishing trait is the MALE FLOWERS. The male flowers are underneath the female fruit on the same stem. The bracts remaining on the peduncle distinguish one variety from another - dwarf varieties usually keep the bracts.

The leaf stem (closed vs open canal) can also help distinguish one variety of bananas from another. But it is still very challenging to confirm a variety while it's still in the nursery. There are PLENTY of misidentifications

in "bananadom". When someone finds something good, and don't know what it is, they may give it a new name...

We learned that it's easier to propagate bananas from side shoots called "sword suckers." These have very narrow leaves, are folded inside of the parent's leaves, and receive food from mom-tree, not from photosynthesis. The larger "water sucker" banana pups growing further away from the main stalk take more effort to propagate because they lose more moisture from their larger leaves.

What's the best fertilizer for bananas? Most fruiting plants need more nitrogen and high potassium for fruit. He uses whatever he has, tending towards organic products. He adds cottonseed meal, potassium, and lots and lots of mulch. He really doesn't water very much. A stand of bananas gets about 5 gallons of water per week, but then again, he has clay soil, cool weather, and a moist atmosphere. Most of his trees don't get watered until midsummer, when it's hotter and drier, or when he wants to wash fertilizer deeper into the soil.

Mark also has what he calls a "fig addiction," which started about 5 years ago. Now he grows many figs, both potted and in ground, and does plenty of grafting to find what varieties do best in his area. Although figs love hot weather, he has cool ocean breezes, so finding varieties which thrive for him is a major goal.

Mark advises everyone to grow what works well in their own local climate. Cherimoya works very well for him. One interesting thing about cherimoyas is they don't drop their leaves - they "moult." There's a time of year where you have a mix of leaves in different stages: new buds, early green, full grown, drying up, and dying.

His cherimoya has multiple grafts – he has tried about 15 varieties. (Thanks Margaret!)

He finds cherimoya easy to graft but it's sensitive to apical dominance. If you have growth tips above your graft then the graft either won't take or will die back. For best success, put the graft as high in the tree as possible. He concedes this could be a problem if you are trying to keep the fruit low enough to harvest without a ladder. He keeps a thick organic mulch at the base.

His fruit are typically 1 - 2 lbs but he's gotten up to 5 lbs. Sometimes fruit will self-pollinate but the fruit are better with hand-pollination.

Some of Mark's other trees include:

Mulberries: Shangri-La (which grows like crazy), with a dwarf Gerardi grafted on. Also, a Pakistani mulberry.

Strawberry and Lemon guavas. Pineapple guava (feijoa) and Apollo feijoa. Goumi.

A 12-foot tall plumeria. (Bought as a stick-in-a-bag from Hawaii, he grew it when he lived on the East Coast, and brought part of it to California. The one at his current house split down the middle and so now he has two trees).

Ardith avocado, with other grafts. Manilla and Glenn Mangoes. The Eugenias: Cherry of the Rio Grande, Surinam Cherry, and Barbados Cherry.

About 20 or 30 different stone fruits, all grafted onto 3 trees. (He doesn't get much of any one thing but he gets lots of different flavors.)

Lime, blood orange, Myer lemon. Multi-grafted citrus: Valencia parent with pomelos, navels, and Page and Kishu mandarin grafts. (His young son says if it doesn't peel easily, he doesn't want it, so he doesn't like Page.)

McBeth loquat with grafted varieties on it. Shade-grown coffee. (They eat the coffee cherries, which still have a lot of caffeine in them).

Several multigrafted figs, including his so-called Frankenfig which has 100+ grafts on it. (Richard R. shown below for scale.)

He is also grafting his neighbor's pear tree (hanging over the fence), so the neighbor gets something tastier!

He grows vegetables as well as fruit – his wife's favorite is green shelling peas. They also have blackberries, tree collards, blueberries (in the shade), tomatoes (Celebrity is a favorite), Cape gooseberry, and volunteer squashes.

He also loves African Blue basil, which doesn't set fruit so it blooms year round and the bees LOVE it. His cluster is about 8 feet wide.

After his tour, Mark got pelted with grafting questions. Here is a taste of his answers:

- Graft mulberries in winter. Root mulberries roughly about the same time. He thinks the best time is when the plant is just starting to bud out and grow.
- Avoid grafting in winter or dormant period. But as long as the rootstock is pushing growth, it should be ok to graft.
- When grafting, keep your scions dormant, but wait until the rootstock starts leafing out. (If the scions start leafing out before they're grafted they probably won't make it.)
- Loquats are supposed to be easy to graft. Mark has done about 10 - 15 grafts and most of them are looking good. Any grafting method that you're comfortable with is probably the best because you're good at it.
- Scions works best when they're pencil size - any of the methods are good.
- At the outset, keep the grafts protected from overheating or sunburn - put it in a shady area if it's in a pot. For topworked trees, you can protect using a paper bag or wrapping aluminum foil loosely around it. He doesn't do any of that. His easy and essential method with avocados is to paint over the entire graft and union with whitewash (50/50 diluted latex paint).
- When grafting, Mark doesn't use rubber bands. He prefers "buddy" tape. This tape actually breaks off before it girdles the limb. It's a vinyl tape, like green nursery tape, but thinner. It's bright white and he uses a Sharpie to write on it. He buys it from A.M. Leonard: www.amleo.com/search/?q=grafting+tape.

Mark, your garden is an amazing cornucopia of flavors and we thank you very much for allowing us to share!

June 26 – A Conversation with Dr. Ben Faber

Dr. Ben Faber's presentation on plant health was a little more scientific than our typical meetings, and it was incredibly informative. Despite some technical challenges that day, Dr. Faber presented everything with dignity and humor.

He started by pointing out that home gardening is definitely not the same thing as commercial farming. Capitalism drives agribusiness, and investors' choices tend to win out over long-term farming strategies (which may take more time to show a profit).

His job is to teach people how to grow along the coast of California. He works primarily with Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties, but also with Riverside and other inland communities. Part of his job is to prevent people from using the wrong techniques for their areas.

He often has to tell local growers to stop using farming concepts from England and New England. While such standards are well known, widespread, and successful back east, much of it doesn't work here because we have less rainfall and more sun. Also, what works inland doesn't necessarily work along the coast!

An example he gave was of someone who used "Miracle Gro Complete Fertilizer" everywhere. The boron content in this product is too high for California soils. Boron deficiency may be typical in Florida and New York, but we have plenty in our native soils, and this grower was "over-boroning" his farm. The evidence were trees full of yellow mottled leaves. (Not like iron chlorosis, where the stem and veins turn yellow; boron toxicity exhibits as mottling between the veins.)

Boron toxicity can be identified by uneven yellow mottling of (the oldest) leaves and leaf dieback. Eventually the leaf gets too much boron and falls off, so you also get a thinning canopy. Mangoes and citrus are very susceptible to it.

One CRFG member showed us a leaf from his own garden, about half covered with yellow blotches. Dr. Faber said it looked boron toxicity, but recommended getting an expert to look at it in person.

The cure is water, lots of water. Boron moves into leaves, so give the plant more water than it needs to leach out the boron.

Most farming communities do not have fresh water freely available. And about 2/3 of the counties have very bad water, with lots of salt. So the problem is not just obtaining water for farming, but managing the chemistry at the root zone. It's a balancing act.

Then there are weeds. To him, a weed is simply a plant out of place. He actually likes to see plants between trees because the right plants will help maintain habitat for biocontrol and improve the soil. It's difficult to convince growers who like their orchards "clean as a whistle!" to allow growth between their trees. On the other hand, not just any plant works!

He told of one grower who wanted native Black Mustard as a cover crop. Dr. Faber had to point out that the mustard is attractive to stink bugs. When it dies back, all the insects will move into the main crop. If it's lemon or avocado, the stink bugs will scar the fruit or worse. Black Mustard might be ok to grow between walnuts and almonds but not for what they were growing at that farm.

He explained the difference between the terms pollinator and pollinizer. It's a technical thing.

Pollinator = animal which moves pollen around

Pollinizer = plant which produces pollen

Fertilization = when pollen enters the pollen tube and moves down to produce fruit/seeds

We learned a lot about avocado production. The avocado is a new world crop which originated in Mexico and South America. But our northern honeybees, which were imported from Europe, don't like avocado sugar! They love citrus and roses but not avocado.

He described an experiment where they introduced multiple types of bees to an avocado orchard: the European honeybee, our native Bumblebee, and the Blue Orchard bee. (The latter two are New World bees, and are often used to pollinate apples). The pollen collected from the bees was sent for analysis to identify which plants the bees had visited.

Bumblebee pollen was about 80% avocado. But the honeybees collected NO avocado pollen, even though they were placed in the middle of the orchard! They travelled miles away to collect pollen outside of the orchard. In fact, there was no difference between pollen collected by honeybees located within the orchard vs those located 1/4 mile away.

Next, they tried planting native seasonal plants to produce flowers year round within the orchards. This encouraged the bees to stay "local." The insects landing on the trees were counted every 2 hours for 15 minutes. A few honeybees were seen landing, but also about 25 different native bees.

One observer from Berkeley counted 120 native bees along the coast! The drawback is, the natives are solitary bees which nest in the ground or cavities. So it takes more to bring them in. On the other hand, you can get a bigger variety of pollinators on avocados using nearby flowers.

Another set of measurements were done at night. Dr. Faber used "wild animal cameras," which took photos of avocado trees as they bloomed, 24 hours a day. What insect flies at night? Not bees, but moths! And the moths he saw were COVERED with avocado pollen!

The moths turned out to be adult leafrollers. He explained that *Amorbia* are worms which damage avocado foliage. But they turn into moths which

pollinate the fruit. So killing all the leafrollers may actually reduce crop yield because it removes a major source of fertilization! (UCANR says "Mature avocado trees can tolerate considerable larval chewing without severe effects on tree growth or fruit yield.")

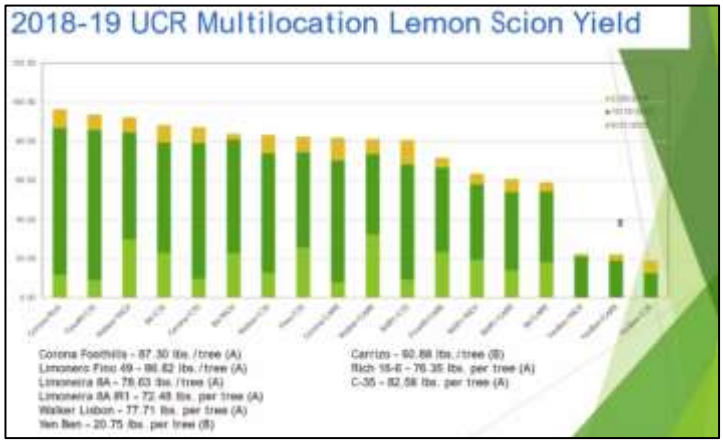
The conclusion: We don't need to use poisons so much. Use them for fruit diseases, not as much for insects.

From avocados we moved into citrus, where Dr. Faber presented a long and technical description of citrus origins, rootstocks, and compatibilities.

High-seeded fruit (with little pulp) seem to make the best rootstocks. Grafting compatibility becomes an issue, though. Some rootstocks work better with particular varieties than others. Myer lemon on C35 apparently is incompatible. (Myer lemon is actually a sour mandarin, not a lemon!)

He went to Turkey and all their rootstock seems to be Brazilian sour orange. It is very vigorous, and also *Phytophthora* resistant. However, it is susceptible to CTV (*Citrus Tristeza Virus*). Sour orange does well in good and bad, sandy and clay soil. Other rootstocks in wet clay soil become asphyxiated (drown). It's not until the soil dries out that the tree can grow again, and that stress exposes the tree to disease. Dr. Faber likes sour orange as a rootstock for lemons, but does not recommend it for sweet navel oranges, because of CTV.

Grafting trials can get HUGE. A recent (ongoing) one involves 12 rootstocks and 8 grafted varieties. It takes up 10 acres! They are (slowly) seeing incompatibilities. This study is still running: trials take a LONG time.



Another concept Dr. Faber recommends is something called a "lemon canopy door." This method of pruning opens up the canopy so you can stand next to the tree trunk and pick fruit from the interior. This is done on the east facing side (morning sun). North or northeast is shadier, so this "door" brings light into that side.

This is a big advantage for citrus harvesting, because fruit pickers do not want to get scratched by the thorns of the branches. Most trees produce fruit along the edge of a canopy, with less or no fruit further in. (Jaboticaba is an exception.) By opening one area, you get more canopy surface area, and therefore more fruit.

Farmers were worried cutting away fruiting branches would reduce their yield, but it actually brings in more fruit! In addition you can keep the tree shorter. Tall trees need ladders and a lot more work to harvest. A shorter tree means picking is done easily from the ground. Short tree + door = faster harvest + less injury/liability + increased fruit yield. So far he has three or four growers using the "fruit door" concept.

Southern California has very little fruit disease - the most common is botryosphaeria, which thrives on dead tissue. If you have dead material within the canopy, the botryosphaeria goes up and causes decay.

(Try https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets/botryosphaeria-canker and also try http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/r302101011.html for information about botryosphaeria.)

Shothole borer is becoming a major problem. The borer is the larval form of an ambrosia beetle. Like bees, this insect actually "farms" a fungus inside of the wood. It favors ash, aspen, sycamore, and similar trees. The fungus slowly grows until the tree starts dying and the beetles eat happily.

There are 65,000 species of ambrosia beetle, and while they all are symbiotic with various fungi, most

only eat dead materials. They are significant actors in moving dead tissue into the soil. The Shothole borer is one of the few which eat living tissue.

How to reduce beetle numbers and fungi? Once you chip the dead tree, this beetle goes away. They like living, stressed trees. (Left image = borer trails, Right image = chipped tree.)

Dr. Faber talked about all the new fruit varieties being industrially grown California: coffee (which uses MASSIVE amount of labor but also demands a high price in the marketplace due to its novelty), tea (grown more for entertainment than mass production – they charge $25 for people to pick, roast, and brew their own tea), bananas (coming back again!), mangoes, prickly pear, and columnar cactus fruit. He wonders why feijoa aren't more popular here – they're so easy to grow and they taste delicious! Also, he thinks passionfruit should be more popular here than it is.

People are looking for new crops all the time. He thinks CRFG is a prime driver of new fruits. Take jaboticaba as an example. It's a great fruit! If you graft you get a crop after the second year. And it's very easy to pick and harvest. So what stops a fruit from becoming popular? Most growers don't like to do the marketing.

The "popular" foods to farm here are constantly changing – it's driven by what people want and what can be grown here. In 1790 the primary crops in Southern California were wheat and cattle. They didn't sell the meat, they sold the tallow and hide (for shoes). Later, California became the primary producer of lima beans. It's basically what our climate allows us to grow, which can't be grown in other places, and which brings a profit. (We could grow cotton, but we would be in competition with China and India, so it's not profitable.)

How much water does California really use to grow almonds? It's said we wouldn't have a drought if we didn't grow almonds - how true is that statement?

The world's almond production is primarily in California: 80% of the all almonds are grown here. We have a dry climate, which prevents a lot of fungal disease. Although we call it a Mediterranean climate, we don't have the humidity of actual Mediterranean countries. There's about a million acres of almonds, which require a LOT of water. Some growers aren't getting any water, so Dr. Faber predicts California will soon drop from 1 million acres of almonds to something significantly less.

It takes water to grow a crop, and you need to look at different ways to evaluate the effective usage. If it takes 4 acre-feet of water to grow 3000 lbs of almonds, then 4 acre-feet = 1.3M gal of water per 3000lbs => it takes 400+ gallons of water per pound of nut, give or take a bit. But you're also growing the tree and the endocarb (soft part of the fruit, used for cattle feed), so the water is not all going into nuts.

We hear a lot about how much water is used by consumers and farms, but did you know that 80% of electricity in California is used to <u>move</u> water?!? (eg: pumped over the Grapevine for crops and urban use.)

What can be grown here which uses water more effectively? It's a balancing act. Plants (such as pitahaya) can grow with little water, but they'll be more productive if they get more water.

To illustrate: all water going into lettuce ends up in the leaves. So a higher proportion of water becomes edible. Saudi Arabia grows acres and acres of alfalfa in Arizona and then exports it, so basically they're exporting the water.

What's the best form of nitrogen to help stimulate plants back to health? Foliar feeding offers the fastest response to nitrate fertilizer. Slow release nitrogen is good in cold soil which freezes in winter, but our soil is warm, and nitrogen disappears quickly here. (Pelletized chicken feathers gets used up in about 6 weeks.)

Ammonium sulfate works really well here, when applied in frequent small quantities. 45-0-0 is cheaper, but does not have as much acidity. 21-0-0 can be used beginning in February and March, but after that, be careful to not overdo it. With a 6-4-6 fertilizer, one tablespoon per tree is too much. He recommends adding smaller quantities every few weeks instead of a lot at once.

"We are only limited by the myths which surround us. We need to create our own myths."

It was an incredibly informative presentation, and we all learned a LOT about gardens and farming. We are extremely grateful to Dr. Faber for everything he taught us that day!

June 26 – the conversation continues.

After Dr. Faber left the meeting, the conversation continued into the use of nitrogen and pest identification. Some of it was too good not to share.

Jerry suggested foliar spray with micronutrients, twice a year. He suggests waiting until it cools off - don't apply fertilizer on the leaves in 100F weather!

With pests and diseases, it's definitely better to get more information before starting a response to a problem. Give it a week to have an expert look it up!

Ventura Master Gardeners and Los Angles Master Gardeners are highly recommended resources. It is best to contact the Ventura group by email because it gives them more time to research the problem for you. (They are staffed by volunteers.)

Los Angeles:
http://celosangeles.ucanr.edu/about/contact/

Ventura:
https://ucanr.edu/sites/VCMG/Home_Gardening_Helpline821/, Email: mgventura@ucdavis.edu
Ventura also lets you send in (tightly-bagged) samples and they can analyze it for you!!

Is there a soil analysis here that's reasonably priced? Sagi uses Penn State Extension on the east coast: https://agsci.psu.edu/aasl/soil-testing. They charge about $15 - $20. The results won't include nitrogen, because that dissipates too fast. Also, be sure to collect multiple samples around your garden to get a full yard analysis, not just spot locations.

David recommends the movie "The Biggest Little Farm," about a local farm in Moorpark. They use cover crops to keep the water from leaving the farm.

Karine recommends "Kiss the Ground," another documentary which describes regenerative agriculture, not just in California but everywhere else. It shows how to bring the good things back!

Avocado farmers that Sagi follows grow alfalfa between the trees and then mow it down so it becomes fertilizer. He recommends growing your own cover crop - something that uses little water and can be turned into fertilizer.

What's a good cover crop for a homeowner? Karine has tried Dymondia, which doesn't use a lot of water but still looks nice. It's a good as a curb plant, but it's not a nitrogen fixer.

There was much discussion about water usage, water sources, almond growing, and drought conditions. Another thank you to Dr. Faber for inspiring some very thoughtful discussions.

Plant Sale - June 19

About 50 people attended our first official in-person event of 2021. It was held outdoors at a private residence in Encino. The fun began with Charles Portney describing every single item for sale, with additional comments from Christine and others who had donated some of the plants. The food was excellent, the company was even better. It was so good to see everyone after so long!

There were some really amazing and interesting plants for sale, including a multi-grafted apple, several varieties of dragonfruit, many dwarf bananas, ground cherries, Barbados gooseberries, loquat and papaya tree seedlings, grapevines and blackberries, geraniums, aloes and other succulents, and plenty more! There were also seeds: wildflower seeds, paprika seeds, and pigeon pea and cotton seeds. A photo album has been created at:

http://crfg-la.org/piwigo/index.php?/category/58

We gratefully thank Eve and Ed for sharing their wonderful back yard with us. The tour of their yard was impressive in its own scope. They have some amazing and productive trees! Thank you so much!

WARNING: Black Fig Fly Infestations

Sent to CRFG-LA by Harvey Correia & Steve Berger

https://crfg.org/category/black-fig-fruit-fly/

The Black Fig Fly ("BFF") has been sighted for the first time in California. Larva have been reported in immature fruit in Pasadena. A grower in Goleta also found the pests. It has been confirmed in Simi Valley by CRFG-LA members. A possible sighting was made in Santa Cruz but this has not yet been confirmed.

It is believed that the pests arrived via fruit imported from Mexico (USDA implemented increased irradiation requirements last September in response). In locations where the pest is confirmed, the CDFA is issuing a hold order: no fruit, plant parts, soil, etc. can be removed from the premises.

This fly can ruin most or all of your fig fruits. A fly can lay up to 60 eggs in the ostiole of a fruit. The larva emerge, drop to the ground, grow in the soil, then become flies and continue the cycle. There are no pesticides labeled for this pest. Malathion is sometimes used for control.

Since the pest spends some of its life cycle in soil, potted plants should not be removed from an infested location even if all the fruit are removed.

McPhail traps baited with hexanol (alcohol) mixed with 2% ammonium sulfate solution can be used to monitor BFF presence. The fly is attracted to fig sap, which can also be used as a bait. More information about traps/bait can be found at https://tinyurl.com/BFF-Observations, which also has a good description of how this pest behaves. (The document is a free downloadable PDF.)

If the fly is detected in your yard, you should notify your local Agricultural Commissioner's office: (https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app)

and also the Los Angeles CDFA: (https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Field_District_Offices.html#11).

There are three discussion threads in the Ourfigs.com forum and most information that is available for now can be found in them:

https://www.ourfigs.com/forum/figs-home/995540-wow-jumping-worms-inside-my-figs

https://www.ourfigs.com/forum/figs-home/1002499-urgent-psa-for-all-california-growers

https://www.ourfigs.com/forum/figs-home/1005825-number-one-bff-controll-asset

The purpose of this notice:

1. Raise awareness of this pest
2. Provide some resource links
3. Request that you not move fruit, plants, soil from areas that may be infested.

Please share this message with other groups as you wish.

- Harvey Correia

CRFG – This Works for Me!

I found if you want to scoop out the pits from peaches or the seeds and lining from loquats, the best tool for the job is a grapefruit spoon. This spoon has a serrated edge, which helps cut any fibers holding the stone fruit pits and grab the loquat lining. Really helpful for preparing fruit to freeze or for making jams. -Candace

When one really wants tree ripened fruit and you have lots of bags of zip ties that have been breeding in the garage… Remember the tree frames from the interim newsletter? I just want to say, "Ha ha squirrels! These yummy fruit are NOT for you!" -Kathleen

These Painters' pens are very long-lasting and work well, especially on the surface of plastic pots. Wal-Mart is now selling a set of five pens for $8. -Roy

Editor's Column

(With Classifieds!)

FOUND: Large and small, pink and red plastic bowls, Tupperware style, used to hold pita chips and hummus. Left behind after the plant sale – do they belong to anyone? Contact editor@crfg-LA.org to claim them. Eve can bring them to the next event or they can be returned some other way.