

IN SHORT, IN HORT

TROPICAL FRUIT IN FLORIDA

Significant changes are occurring in tropical fruit production in Florida. The greatest production occurs in the Dade County southwest of Miami, but there are plantings in warm areas of several other counties in the southern half of the Florida peninsula.

The area of avocado plantings is at an all-time high, with 12,872 acres as of Jan. 1984. The recent overproduction in California, however, has caused Florida growers to stop planting new avocado orchards.

As a result of abandonment of older plantings, Tahiti lime plantings have been reduced to 7009 acres in 1984, from 7491 in 1982. Competition from other countries, particularly Mexico, and problems caused by the citrus canker quarantine have discouraged growers from making new plantings.

Some new orchards of mango are being planted, and currently there are 2589 acres. Growers believe that there is good potential for increased consumption in the United States. Fruit from other countries of the American tropics is partly, but not entirely, competitive with United States fruit because some is produced at seasons when no fruit is available from Florida.

Other tropical fruit produced commercially include atemoya (40 acres), banana (300 acres), Barbados cherry (30 acres), carambola (30 acres), guava (50 acres), longan (10 acres), lychee (200 acres), mamey sapote (300 acres), papaya (300 acres), sapodilla (30 acres), and sugar apple (910 acres).

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CARAMBOLA INDUSTRY IN FLORIDA

The carambola, a newcomer to the United States fruit market, is receiving much attention from growers in southern Florida and the Caribbean Region. The deeply ribbed fruit is also called "star fruit" because it forms a 5-pointed star in cross section. Consumers find the unique shape, the smooth waxy surface, and the bright yellow color of the fruit very attractive.

The tree, native to Asia, grows best under lowland tropical conditions, but is sufficiently frost-tolerant to be grown in some subtropical areas. An important climatic requirement is for relatively high mean day and night temperatures.

The carambola has been cultivated in Asia for a long time, but was little known in the Western Hemisphere until recently. The first cultivar to be described in the United States was the 'Golden Star' (Florida 1965). Since then a number of cultivars have been introduced to Florida from Asia and several others have been selected from seedling populations in Florida. Cultivars in commercial plantings include 'Golden Star', 'Newcomb', and 'Arkin'.

Present plantings in Florida total about 30 acres, with an additional 70 acres in the planning stage. Greatest fruit production is in August-September and November-December, but a small amount is produced all year.

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NICKEL KEY MINERAL

Minute amounts of the mineral nickel is the latest botanical secret revealed by science for the health and well-being of green plants.

According to a study conducted at Cornell Univ. by David L. Eskew, research associate, and Earl E. Cary, ARS research chemist, the experiment was based on the recent discovery that nickel is a part of urease—the plant enzyme that breaks down the nitrogen compound urea into simpler compounds aiding growth and development.

Agricultural Research
June 1984

Send items of interest to Timothy E. Crocker, Dept. of Horticulture, Univ. of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611.

CORRIGENDUM

In the article "Respiration and Weight Changes of Easter Lily Flowers during Development" by Yin-Tung Wang and Patrick

J. Breen [*HortScience* 19(5):702-703] the captions for the 2 graphs were reversed. The correct graphs and captions read:

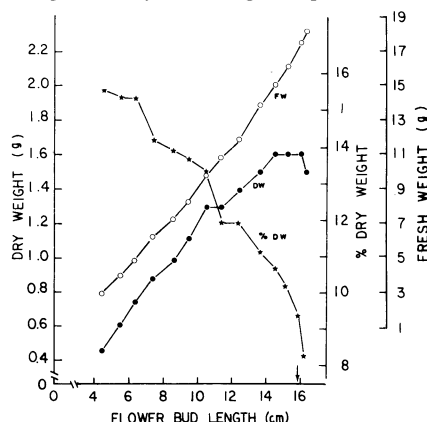


Fig. 1. Changes in fresh weight (FW), dry weight (DW) and percentage of dry weight (%DW) during the development of the Easter lily flower. The arrow indicates the length at which the flower bud opened.

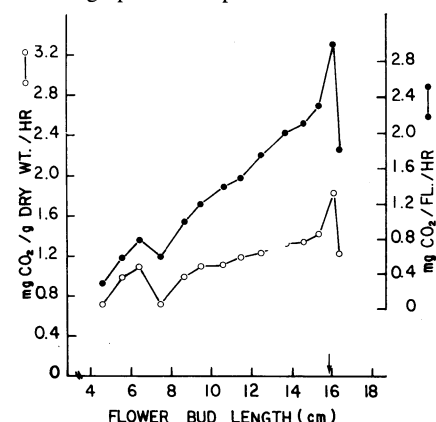
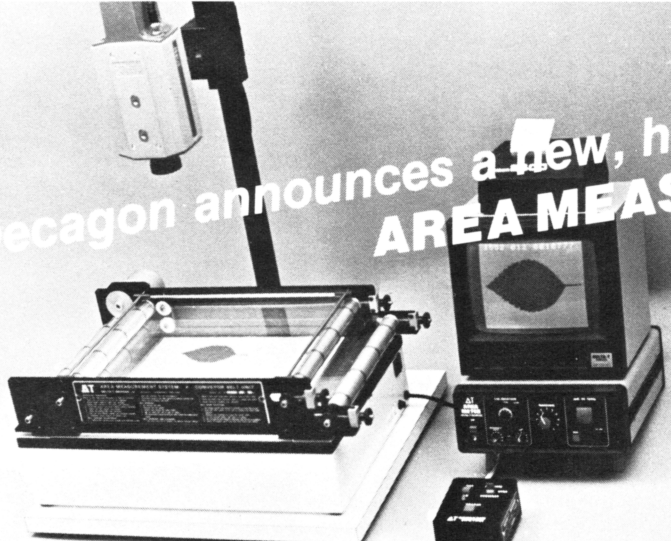


Fig. 2. Respiration of Easter lily flower [per flower/bud (●) and per g dry weight (○)]. The arrow indicates the length at which the flower bud opened.

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