

JENNY & DAVID BURD - THIS AND THAT AUGUST 2017

ATEMOYAS and SUGAR APPLES

With the summer rains & heat, mealy bugs deposits will inevitably show up on your Annonas. It looks like white fluffy deposits. You can spray gently with a garden hose, or make a mix in your sprayer of an organic soap - 2oz per gallon of water - safer soap is OK too.

PERSIMMONS

Why is the persimmon crop so sparse this year? We had a warm winter - persimmons need cooler weather - chill hours, same as peaches and nectarines to have a good fruit set. Also, don't forget - persimmons lose their leaves after the fruit has been harvested in the winter time - this is when you fertilize with a good quality balanced fertilizer such as 6-6-6 or equivalent. Always read the label for chlorine %; if more than 4%, don't buy it. (chlorine turns to salt). As soon as you see the new leaves starting to push, no more fertilizer, otherwise there is a good chance any fruit that sets will abort.

LYCHEES

The warmer temperatures this past winter (not enough chill hours) caused the lychees to not flower. Some trees did flower but most did not flower.

Lychee pruning – The normal time to prune is right after the fruit has been harvested. Generally, this is June to early July. Should you prune this year when there was not any fruit? YES, BUT VERY LIGHTLY.

If you have not already fertilized the lychees, use a good citrus fertilizer. You can use 8-2-10 or 6-4-6. Also, 0-0-22 is good to apply at the same time – 2 parts of 8-2-10 to 1 part 0-0-22. Apply as you would normally fertilize, out by the dripline. NO MORE NITROGEN FERTILIZER from September on. We want the tree to put its energy into making fruit, not growing. Cut off watering the lychees in December until you see the flowers in (?) February. This also encourages flowers and fruit set.

LONGANS

The same information for lychees applies to longans. Longans usually fruit one to one and a half months after the lychees – August to September. Prune after the fruit has been harvested.

*****Note** The pruning of lychees and longans is an art. If pruned too heavily, no fruit the next year!