

Suncoast Tropical Fruit and Vegetable Club
Meeting Notice

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 8, 2017
Where: Main Room Nokomis Community Center
234 Nippino Trail East, Nokomis, FL 34275
Agenda: 6:30 pm Chat and Tasting Table
7:00 pm Introduction and Presentation
8:30 pm Plant Raffle
Speaker: Dr. Noris Ledesma, Curator of Tropical Fruit,
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
Topic: Training and Pruning a Mango Orchard to Improve
Blooming and Yield in South Florida

Dr. Noris Ledesma is the Curator of Tropical Fruit at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. She is one of the leading experts in the world on tropical fruits.

Noris has prepared two documents for her presentation. She asked that they be sent with the meeting notice. They are attached.

Training and Pruning a Mango Orchard to Improve Blooming and Yield in South Florida

By *Noris Ledesma, PhD*

Increasingly there are opportunities for the production of mangos using innovative production systems and new cultivars that can distinguish themselves from those already commercially available; this will allow for an elevated price and profit. Dr. Ledesma will share her recent research on one-year-old mango trees were managed by shoot bending after planting to increase flower and fruit production. Shoot bending is known to reduce shoot growth and to enhance flowering of fruit trees. Training and pruning included shoot tipping to encourage branching, pruning to stimulate flushing in young-bearing trees, and arch bending to increase flower and fruit production.



Doctor Noris Ledesma is a horticulturist specialist in tropical fruits. She has an educational background in Tropical Fruits and Economy, Forestry Engineering, with work experience throughout Latin America, Asia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Africa, and India. For over 17 years she has been working at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden as a Curator of Tropical Fruit. She is a courtesy professor at the University of Florida, Tropical Research and Education Center, Homestead FL, and an Adjunct Researcher at the United States Department of Agriculture-ARS SHRU (clonal germplasm repository United States), Miami, FL.

Her work includes collecting *Mangifera* species and their contribution to the people of Borneo. Ongoing research includes creating interspecific hybrids between *Mangifera indica* and selected species. She is looking for a perfect mango, a mango variety that possesses tree dwarfness, attractive color with good quality fruit, and tolerant to diseases for new sustainable and organic crops and production systems. Her work has been recorded in *The Fruit Hunters* movie.

Books: *For the Love of Mangos-India*, (2008), Miami Children Hospital Foundation. 2008. *"Miami Flavors: Our City's Culinary Point of View"*, Miami Florida. *A Quick Guide of Mangos* (2005), *The Exotic Jackfruit: Growing the World's Largest Fruit* (2003); and *Mangos: A Guide to Mangos in Florida* (1992). In recent years she becomes a contributor to the *Miami Herald* and to Fairchild's award winning "Tropical Garden" magazine, where I had a regular column.

She has authored over a hundred scientific and popular articles on fruit culture in the last decade, as well as coauthor of three books, and numerous scientific publications and popular articles.