Brazilian Cherry or Grumichama, *Eugenia brasiliensis*

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Cherries in Florida?

This is one fruit tree that should be seen more often! It is a lovely evergreen ornamental with its shiny dark green leaves and striking white flowers in mid-March. The white flowers have about 100 white stamens with yellowish anthers. The new growth is an attractive rosy-burgundy red. The fruit tastes like a Bing cherry. The seed is larger than a Bing cherry, which means that you just have to eat more grumichama fruit! Some people object to the little green sepals that remain on the fruit, but I say it is just like a little lettuce and enjoy! These trees can grow to 25 or 35 feet, but can be kept pruned to pickable ten or twelve feet. The trees will reflower so that you will have fruit several times during the year, although the first crop is the largest. The tree is from sub-tropical areas of Brazil, but is reported to survive temperatures of 26° F and produces more fruit if the winter is a little chilly. The fruit keeps well frozen. Fruit flies and birds may compete for the harvest. This is one fruit you must try if you like cherries! For more info see: http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/morton/grumichama.html .
This would also be a good choice to have in your yard in case citrus canker quarantines result in removal of your citrus fruit trees.

For more information on home gardening, contact the University of Florida, Collier County Cooperative Extension Service, Master Gardener Plant Clinic, at 353-2872. If you have a specimen that you want identified, the Extension Plant Clinic at 14700 Immokalee Rd. is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., call 353-2872. Extension programs are open to all persons without regard to race, color, creed, sex, handicap or national origin. For updates on southwest Florida Horticulture and more landscape information visit: http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu