

Resources for Commercial Tropical Fruit Growers

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Many commercial tropical fruit growers begin their journey knowing very little about growing tropical fruit. Even experienced growers will sometimes have trouble finding the information they are looking for. This publication is designed to help commercial tropical fruit growers by presenting a collection of information that will be useful to new and experienced growers.



General Information

You can find general information for commercial growers here: http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/agriculture/tropical_fruit_commercial.shtml. This information will include crop spacing and seasons, packing houses, nurseries, pesticide and fertilizer companies, as well as fact sheets on propagation, pruning, and much more.

Agricultural Economics

You can find important economic information on growing tropical fruit commercially on Dr. Edward "Gilly" Evans', professor of food and economics at UF/IFAS TREC, website located here: <http://agecon.centers.ufl.edu/>. Here you will find costs of establishing a grove and maintaining a grove, as well as, information on marketing intelligence.

Finding Information

You can find great information on most tropical fruit by using Google or a similar search engine and using these three keywords: EDIS/Crane/name of fruit

-**For example enter:** "EDIS Crane Pitaya"

-**EDIS** (Electronic Data Information Source) is the robust UF database of our publications.

-**Crane** is the last name of Dr. Jonathan H. Crane, who has worked with these crops in South Florida for 30 years or more as the tropical fruit specialist at UF's Tropical Research and Education Center. If Dr. Crane is the author, you can trust the information as relevant to South Florida.

-You can also visit the EDIS website directly and enter keywords directly such as "pesticides" or "irrigation. The EDIS publications database can be found here:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Miami-Dade County Agricultural Manager

Contact Charles LaPradd, Charles.LaPradd@miamidade.gov, 305-971-5091, for specific questions regarding the rules and regulations concerning agriculture in Miami-Dade County.

Information on Ag Tax Exemptions/Property Appraising in Miami-Dade County

http://www.miamidade.gov/pa/property_agriculture_application.asp

Call Raul Nillo, Ag Exemption Property Appraiser, at 305-234-1454 for more information.

Information on Food Safety

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/default.htm>

Miami-Dade Extension

Use your Commercial Tropical Fruit Extension Agent as a resource. Email him directly to be added to his email list. Contact information: Jeff Wasielewski, 305-248-3311, ext. 227, jwasielewski@ufl.edu.

Also check The Fruit and Spice Park for classes on tropical fruit:

<http://redlandfruitandspice.com/>.

Helpful Groups

The Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida is an organization that is very involved with the tropical fruit industry in South Florida. You can find more information about them and become a member on their informative website: <http://www.tfgsf.com/>.

You can register your crops and get some protection for crop loss with the USDA Farm Service Agency, 1450 N Krome Avenue #102, Homestead, FL 33033 ,305-242-1197.

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Updated January 2017, For additional information, contact Jeff Wasielewski, Commercial Tropical Fruit Agent, 305-248-3311, ext. 227 or jwasielewski@ufl.edu.