November Gardening Guide 2010
By Patricia Porchey

Q. Last year there were lots of blemishes on my citrus fruit. What can I do to make them look like the ones in the supermarket?

A. The “perfect” fruit sold in supermarkets and gift baskets is not generally found in dooryard gardens. Instead, it’s common to see citrus fruit with blemishes on the rind.

In the late summer and early fall it’s common to see fruit that is brown and sometimes even black with a hardened rind. There is no remedy for this because the damage was done at the onset of hot weather by citrus rust mites. You can however, prevent this discoloration next year by spraying the tree with horticultural oil in June before temperatures reach 94 degrees.

Blotches on the rind with corresponding grease-like spots on the lower surface of leaves are a disease called Greasy Spot. An oil or copper spray in June or July will alleviate this problem.

Other superficial blemishes observed are pock marks caused by the wind repeatedly whipping branches and thorns into the fruit. In these instances, as with all of the above, the pulp is usually unaffected and remains delicious.

Special Event:
Master Gardener Help Desk, Phillippi Farmhouse Market, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. every Wednesday.

PLANTING GUIDE
Vegetables & herbs: Basil, beans, beets, Borage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, carrot, cauliflower, celery, chervil, collards, coriander, dill, fennel, garlic, leek, mustard, onions, parsley, peas, rutabaga, sage, spinach, strawberries, Swiss chard, thyme, tomato, and turnips.
Annuals: Ageratum, Alyssum, Begonia, Calendula, Celosia, Coleus, cosmos, dusty miller, foxglove, geranium, Impatiens, Lobelia, marigold, Melampodium, nasturtium, pansy, Pentas, petunia, Salvia, snapdragon, and statice.
Perennials: African iris, aster, blue daze, bush daisy, Chrysanthemum, cigar plant, Coreopsis, Dianthus, Gaillardia, Gerbera daisy, native Mexican petunia, Salvia, Scabiosa, Shasta daisy, society garlic, and Verbena.
Fruits in Season: Atemoya, avocado, banana, carambola, citrus (calamondin, grapefruit, key lime, lemon, lime, orange, tangelo and tangerine), kumquat, papaya, pecan, persimmon, pomegranate, sea grape, and sugar apple.
Blooming plants: Allamanda, bottlebrush, Bougainvillea, Cassia, Cordia, firecracker plant, firespike, goldenrod, Liatris, lion’s ear, oleander, Philippine violet, red and yellow shrimp plants, Salvia, thryallis, Turk’s cap, Thunbergia, and yellow elder.

Upcoming educational classes:
Call 861-9900 to register for the following classes.
  • Organic Vegetable Gardening, Orange Blossom Community Garden, 18th & Orange, 1:00 p.m. November 6
• Rain Barrel Workshop, St. Wilfred Episcopal Church, 3773 Wilkinson Rd, 4:00 p.m. November 9
• Florida Yards & Neighborhoods: Nine Landscape Principles, Fruitville Library, 2:00 p.m. November 15
• Partnering with Pollinators, Twin Lakes Park, 10:00 a.m. November 16
• Holiday Plants, Twin Lakes Park, 10:00 a.m. November 17
• Landscaping to Attract Birds, Shamrock Park, 2:00 p.m. November 18
• Rain Barrel Workshop, Twin Lakes Park, 10:00 a.m. November 20
• Organic Vegetable Gardening-Composting for Beginners, Laurel Community Garden, Forest & Collins, Laurel, 10:30a.m. November 20
• Cold Protection for your Plants, Twin Lakes Park, 10:00 a.m. December 1
• Termites in the Home, Twin Lakes Park, 1:00 p.m. December 1
• Florida Yards & Neighborhoods: Nine Landscape Principles, Venice Library, 10:00 a.m. December 2
• Stinging Insects, Shamrock Park, 2:00 p.m. December 2
• Florida Yards & Neighborhoods: Nine Landscape Principles, Gulf Gate Library, 2:00 p.m. December 3

For information
The Master Gardener Help Desk now has an email address: mghelpdesk@scgov.net to answer questions. It is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m.-Noon and 1:00-4:00 p.m. You can call (941-861-9807) or visit our office at Twin Lakes Park on Clark Road east of I-75 with landscape questions. We also have weekly satellite help desks at the four south county libraries and every Monday at Gulf Gate Library.

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