

CITRUS SHOW TO DISPLAY LOCALLY GROWN HARVEST

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service — Galveston County Office



PHOTO BY William M. Johnson

A single citrus tree in the home landscape can provide impressive quantities of fresh-squeezed tasty juice on a cool winter day. Whether you are an enthusiastic citrus grower or just interested in viewing an array of locally grown citrus fruit, plan to attend the 2013 Upper Gulf Coast Citrus Show to be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 21, at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office located in Carbide Park.

Over the next several weeks, Master Gardeners will be harvesting citrus trees growing in the Horticulture Demonstration Garden in Carbide Park. Several satsuma trees are producing a bumper crop of fruits this fall. As part of the study, each harvest is weighted to determine annual yield (pounds per tree). Even if a single citrus tree were to produce mega tons of citrus, if the fruit

is not delightful to the taste buds it would be for naught. Some of the harvested satsumas were hand-pressed and all Master Gardeners were impressed with the delightfully sweet and tasty juice. More than one Master Gardener commented that it will be hard to drink the citrus juice in the plastic jug or paper carton in the home refrigera-

tor. When you think of citrus, images of oranges, grapefruits, lemons and limes are most likely to come to mind. It's unfortunate that the citrus you see in the supermarket represents a very small portion of the variety of citrus that can be grown locally. A greater diversity of citrus types can be grown here than is



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available on the commercial market. Not surprisingly, home-grown citrus is of superior quality to supermarket fruits. Area gardeners grow a remarkably wide variety of citrus ranging from grapefruits to kumquats to lemons to oranges. The other good news is that this year's citrus crop has been very productive.

Many types of citrus are easier to grow than many "traditional" fruit trees such as peaches. Many residents grow citrus not only for the fruit but also for the ornamental value that trees provide to the landscape.

Now visualize one of several types of citrus trees that you can grow in your yard to produce home-grown fruit to give as a distinctive and personal gift to family, neighbors and other friends. Sound too good to be true? Are you interested in viewing an array of locally grown citrus fruit? Are you interested in learning about the basics of growing your own citrus?

Whether you are an enthusiastic citrus grower or just interested in viewing an array of locally grown citrus fruit, plan to attend the 2013 Upper Gulf Coast Citrus Show on Thursday, November 21.

The Citrus Show will be conducted at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office located in Carbide Park at 4102-B Main Street (FM 519) in La Marque. Based on prior year

entries, 200 entries are expected to be on display at this year's show.

Area residents may enter any type of citrus fruit in the show for judging. Each entry must be grown by the exhibitor and should consist of three fruits that are as uniform as possible. Each entry must be bagged and clearly tagged with your name, address and telephone number.

Also, indicate the type of fruit and variety. If the variety or even type of fruit is not known, it may be entered and will be identified.

Entries will be accepted at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, and on Wednesday, November 20. Rosettes and ribbons will be awarded to the best quality entries.

This year's Upper Gulf Coast Citrus Show will be held on Thursday, November 21. Citrus exhibits will be on public display from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. followed by an awards presentation at 7:00 p.m.

At 7:15 p.m., Monte Nesbitt, Texas A&M Extension Specialist in the Department of Horticultural Sciences at College Station, will provide a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Growing Citrus on the Gulf Coast." Whether you already have considerable experience with growing citrus or are just considering growing citrus, this is a must-attend program.

I give Monte an unconditional "Two Thumbs Up" rating for his informative educational program targeted at home citrus growers. Pre-registration is not required and the program is open to the general public.

Contact the Galveston County Extension Office (phone: 281-534-3413, ext. 12) or visit my website (<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston>) for additional information and entry guidelines.

