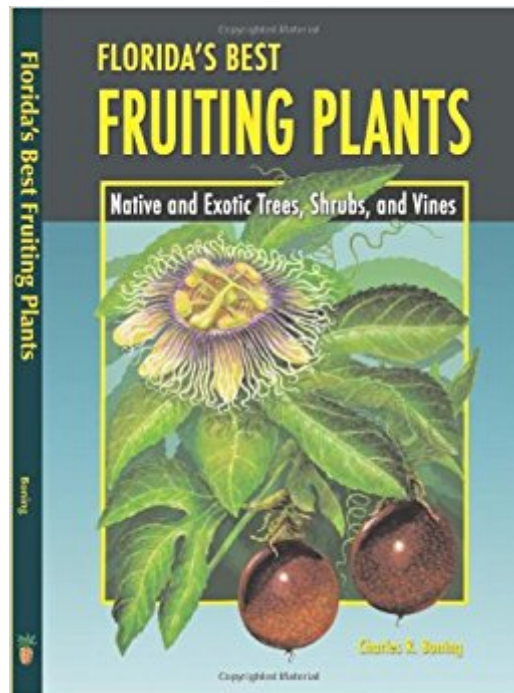




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Florida's Best Fruiting Plants: Native And Exotic Trees, Shrubs, And Vines



Synopsis

A comprehensive guide to fruit-bearing plants that thrive in the Florida environment. Discusses exotics and native species, familiar plants and dozens of rare and obscure plants.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Charles Boning is a naturalist, illustrator, and attorney, who has authored numerous books for the national education market. He has resided in north, central, and south Florida and is familiar with plants that succeed in each region. Within his own garden he has cultivated and tested nearly all of the species profiled in this book.

I wish I had found this book years ago..it would have literally saved hundreds if not thousands of dollars for both our own home and landscaping rental properties. I love fruit trees but Florida can be tricky when it comes to plants...a few miles up the road and something will grow perfectly while other plants will die. Sun, humidity and frost conditions all converge to create a unique environment where some thrive and others survive within miles of one another. Having lived in various parts of Florida, it's not always easy to distinguish which plants will work in any given area - for example, some forms of avocado will thrive as far north as Gainesville while some forms of citrus (despite seemingly having a farther reach) have a more limited area than might be expected. Unfortunately, nursery and plant sales tend to push plants that won't always survive after the first sign of frost or during those super high humidity days...and even if they work on one side of the county it might not

hold true for other areas. As a person who loves fruit trees, shrubs and other edible plants this is a GREAT book. Includes a drawing and photo for each plant. Height, location, description, alternatives/close family members of the species, where to locate and care instructions. An instant favorite and must have for any Floridian searching for those unusual fruits or simply which will work best in their own area!

This is a visually stunning and imminently usable reference book. The author presents some eighty varieties of fruit that grow well in Florida. Most varieties are presented in two-page spreads which include all the basic information one would need (other than an actual taste test) to decide what fruit to include in plans for dooryard gardens, including but not limited to: a full-color illustration of the fruit and how it grows on the plant (most grow on trees); a calendar bar depicting when the fruit is ready to harvest, a map showing where in Florida the fruit will grow (dark green for where it should grow well, light green for where it may grow although conditions are not optimal, and yellow in borderline areas); a silhouette depicting the tree or plant with a scale to indicate the mature size; known hazards (e.g. spines, thorns, pollen, toxic seeds, and so on); soil types and conditions, and much more. There are also many photographs and illustrations showing the fruit cut open. Of the varieties of fruit presented, I found a total of forty possibilities for growing on my property (central west coast of Florida, on the Nature Coast): thirteen in the dark green area, thirteen in the light green area, and fourteen in the yellow area. Those totally committed to growing only Florida native plants may be bothered to find fruit like loquat (Japanese plum) presented in this book as it is sometimes considered invasive or a threat to become invasive. Any time a non-native species is planted, there is a risk of its seeds being carried into the wild, including by birds and wildlife. There are advantages to growing plants, including fruit, native to an area; in Florida, the list of native fruit that grows well might be a short list. In many cases, the author presents representative varieties of the fruit, when in fact there may be hundreds of varieties. The book includes a disappointingly short list of nurseries and could be improved by including more information about where to purchase fruit trees and plants. Nevertheless, I find no trouble in highly recommending this book. I was considering buying a copy and found it at my local library and decided to check it out and review it first. Now that I have done so, I believe this book would be a bargain at full price.

I am an avid rare and tropical fruit enthusiast and have a garden full of the best of the best and am always looking to plant more. In a very concise manner, it lays out the 'need to know' information on the plant such as: how tall it will be at full size which is the best cultivar (variety) of the fruit that will do

the best in south Florida and produce the best resultsdetailed description of the tree and the fruitwhere in Florida it will grow the bestpotential pestsrelativesfull color pictures and drawingsThe only thing that kept the book from earning a well deserved 5 star rating is that it is lacking if the plant needs sun or shade. It is fairly detailed on all other manners of care such as watering requirements, soil types, and possible pests that can damage the tree. It is also missing a handful of exotics like the Miracle Fruit, Akee, Cacao, and Malay Apple. That being said, this book contains fruit that even I have never heard of before and is an excellent reference tool and is a must have for anyone who loves exotic fruit.This book was recommended to me by my good friends at Excalibur Fruit Trees in Lake Worth and if you love rare fruit and live within 2 hours, their place is my disney world. Well worth the trip but bring a truck or SUV because you WILL leave with something you've never heard of before.

I was delighted with this fully illustrated wonderful reference book that contained all the necessary information for selecting, growing and caring for Florida fruiting plants to select for use in my permaculture edible forest garden. My wish list would to be for Mr. Boning to create a searchable companion video for his book for an even more perfect resource.

I just got the book today. It is very well organized so you can easily find the same information about each species. It has very nice color photos and illustrations. It covers many species that are not found very easily in other books. I really like the book. I have a huge collection of gardening books and this is one of the better ones. Although I live in Panama rather than Florida the book covers many species that would do well here. It would be a good book for anyone living in the tropics or throughout the south including along the gulf coast, Georgia, the Carolinas, etc. If you are at all interested in fruits for warmer climates then you should buy this book. The paper and printing including the photos and the fonts are of better than average quality. A very good value for the price.

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