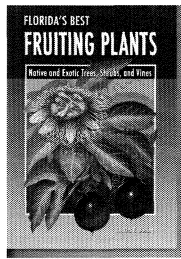


BOOK REVIEW



FLORIDA'S BEST FRUITING PLANTS: NATIVE AND EXOTIC TREES, SHRUBS, AND VINES

CHARLES R. BOING

2006. 232 p. \$19.95. Softcover, Size: 7 × 10. Full-color illustrations throughout. Pineapple Press, Inc. <http://www.pineapplepress.com>. ISBN: 1-56164-372-6.

Florida's Best Fruiting Plants is a handy reference guide for the Florida home owner. The book covers a wide range of tropical and temperate fruit plants, both native and exotic. It is organized alphabetically by common names in the retail trade. Each plant description contains comprehensive information, including geographic distribution, along with characteristics of the fruit and its harvest and use. Descriptions of the plants habit and cultivation requirements are also covered.

This book is well illustrated, with over 170 photos and 160 illustrations, along with easy to understand graphics that denote geographical ranges and a rating scale for characteristics such as ease of care, quality of fruit, landscape value, cold, wind, and salt tolerance, making this a great guide to the many varieties of fruiting plants that are available to those who live in Florida. While the book is written for Florida growers, those living in California and the Gulf states may also find this book useful.

The book also includes a brief chapter that covers the basics on diseases, pests and nutrition, along with proper planting techniques. There are a few taxonomic issues. Some plants are referred to by genus with the species only identified as spp. This seems to only have been used were there were multiple subspecies or hybrids to choose from. It would be up to the individual to research further to find the cultivar with the qualities that they desire.

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

—Lisa Wade
Grounds Manager
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens