Unusual Fruit Trees in South Gippsland

Rhys Freeman
Casimiroa edulis
White Sapote

- Origin: South America
- Family: Rutaceae (Citrus relative)
- Frost and heat tolerant, resists cinnamon fungus
- Prefers moisture, sunny well drained position
- Grafted varieties required – fruits best with a pollinator
- Susceptible to snail and slug attack
Casimiroa edulis
White Sapote

- Flavour: A mixture of Canteloupe, Pear, Banana
- Heavy fruiting – sometimes twice a year
- Source: subtropical nurseries, CERES, Daley’s Nursery
Casimiroa edulis
White Sapote
Annona cherimola
Cherimoya, Custard Apple

- Origin: South America
- Family: Annonaceae
- Warm temperate climate, frost sensitive
- Prefers moisture, sunny well-drained position
- Grafted varieties required
- Deciduous in spring, new leaves grow immediately
- Requires hand pollination (early January onwards)
Annona cherimola
Cherimoya, Custard Apple
Flavour: creamy, subtropical, unique
Asimina triloba
American Paw Paw, Poor Man’s Banana

• Origin: Eastern USA – southern to almost Canada
• Family: Annonaceae
• Temperate climate, frost tolerant
• Prefers very reliable moisture, part shade/full sun, well drained position
• Best position: river floodplains
• Grafted varieties required
Asimina triloba
American Paw Paw, Poor Man’s Banana

• Flavour : Similar to a banana
• Cottage industries in eastern USA, farmer’s markets
• Source : Yamina Rare Plants
Asimina triloba
American Paw Paw, Poor Man’s Banana
Carica stipulata x C. Pubescens
Babaco

- Origin: South America
- Family: Caricaceae
- Temperate climate, very frost sensitive
- Prefers moisture, full sun, well drained position
- Deciduous in winter in South Gippsland
- Source: easy to propagate, good subtropical nurseries
Carica stipulata x C. Pubescens

Babaco

Flavour: Lemon flavoured melon (requires sugar)
Macadamia integrifolia, M. Tetraphylla, and hybrids Macadamia

• Origin : Subtropical Australia
• Family : Proteaceae
• Subtropical climate (NSW), a little frost sensitive
• Prefers moisture, full sun, well drained position
• Heavy fruiting with the right varieties
• Source : most good nurseries – do not purchase seedlings though
Macadamia integrifolia, M. Tetraphylla, and hybrids (A4, A16) Macadamia
Jubaea chilensis
Chilean Wine Palm

• Origin : Chilean mountains
• Family : Arecaceae
• Cool temperate, but tolerates wide variety of conditions (heat, drought)
• Prefers full sun, well drained position
• Very slow growing
Jubaea chilensis
Chilean Wine Palm

- Fruit: mini coconuts
- Heavy fruiter in autumn
- 15+ years to harvest
- Source: Rare, difficult to find
Jubaea chilensis
Chilean Wine Palm
Acronychia oblongifolia, Acronychia acidula

Lemon Aspen

• Origin: East coast rainforests (inc. some Victorian)
• Family: Rutaceae
• Subtropical climate, frost sensitive
• Prefers moisture, full sun, well drained position
• Heavy fruiting, very hardy
• Source: Daley’s nursery. Propagate from root suckers
Acronychia oblongifolia, Acronychia acidula
Lemon Aspen
Other bush food trees
Will fruit here

- *Tasmannia lanceolata* (Mountain Pepper)
- *Eucalyptus olida* (Strawberry Gum)
- *Backhousia citriodora* (Lemon Myrtle)
- *Syzygium anisatum* (Aniseed Myrtle)
- *Syzygium luehmanii* (Riberry)
- *Hicksbeachia pinnatifolia* (Red Bopple Nut)
- *Podocarpus elatus* (Ilawarra Plum)
Questions?