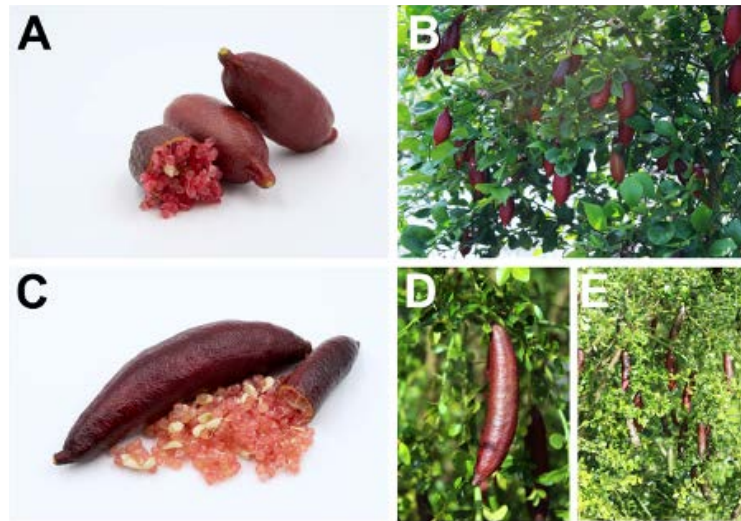


‘UF SunLime’ and ‘UF RedLime’: Two New Finger Lime Cultivars for the Specialty Citrus Market

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A composite image of the fruit characteristics of ‘UF SunLime’ (A and B) and ‘UF RedLime’ (C,D and E)

The finger lime is a HLB-tolerant Australian native citrus that has been gaining popularity and importance in the last few years. Finger lime has several unique fruit qualities that set it apart from conventional sweet oranges and mandarins. The primary characteristic of this fruit is the round to teardrop-shaped juice vesicles that burst out when the fruit is cut and separate out individually. The juice vesicles are known as “citrus caviar” and

is the main product to market. Finger limes, once processed and packaged, can increase in economic value several times over. The UF/IFAS citrus improvement program has released two improved finger lime cultivars for the Florida growers to cultivate the finger lime as a specialty crop. ‘UF SunLime’ is a finger lime hybrid producing cylindrical fruit that averages around three inches in length. ‘UF RedLime’ is narrow, oblong in shape, slight tapering

at both ends with the length varying from 3.5 to 5 inches. Under central Florida conditions, both cultivars produce high amounts of anthocyanins in both the juice vesicles and skin. We anticipate that locally grown finger limes can be a useful addition to the “Fresh from Florida” portfolio and can help bolster local food systems leading to increased sales to restaurants and businesses.

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