

Now Available! Finger Limes: The caviar of the fruit world

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**CITRUS IN THE
HOME LANDSCAPE**

Take home messages

- Finger limes have a high tolerance to HLB.
- Newer varieties are available with enhanced anthocyanin production and visual appeal.
- Homeowners can now purchase finger lime trees.

Outline

- What is a finger lime?
- Where did the finger lime originate?
- UF's finger lime development
- UF finger lime varieties
- Where to buy and additional resources

What is a finger lime?

- Citrus relative
- Thorny understory shrub or small tree
- The juice vesicles are globular and likened to “caviar”

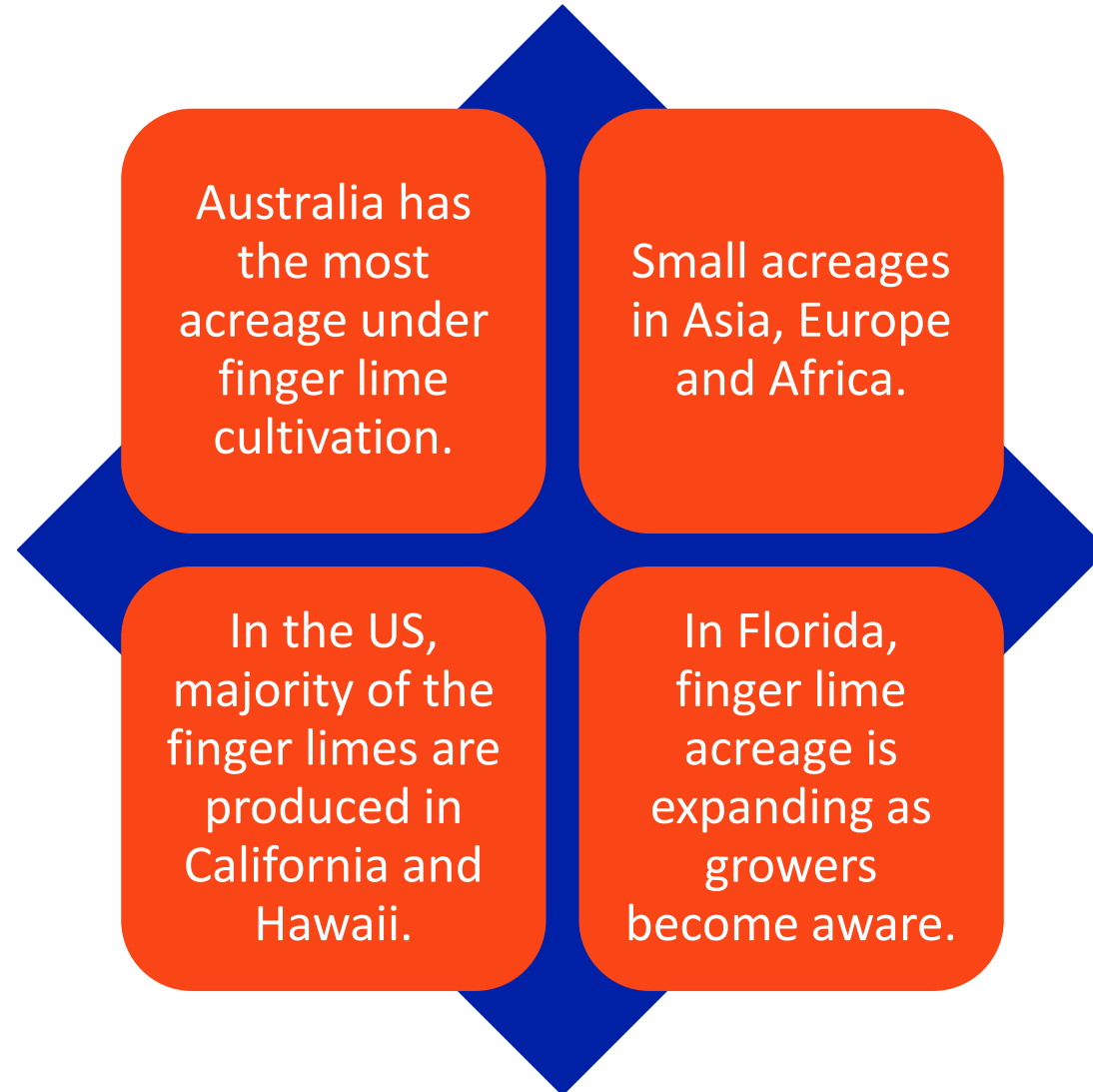


Finger limes origination

- Finger lime originated from the rainforests of the border ranges of SE Queensland and Northern NSW



Finger limes from a global context



Cultivar details - DPI

Variety Clone	Entry Date	DPI Notes
Finger Lime DPI-205-1	6/27/1977	Received from Dr. Prevatt, Florida Southern College in 1977, originally from Australia. Very thorny branches. Small leaves with scalloped edges. Very long and slender fruit. Pear-shaped pulp vesicles, numerous seeds.
Red Finger Lime DPI-50-36	11/4/2003	Sanguinea red finger lime, received seed 11/4/2003, from the National Clonal Germplasm Repository, Accession PI539734, CRC 1484. <i>Microcitrus australasica</i> , var. <i>sanguinea</i> .
Australian Finger Lime 697 CGIP-233	6/21/2017	Introduced from California. Commercial cultivar grown in CA and HI.
Finger Lime Giant DPI-205-4	3/27/2006	This larger fruited selection resulted from a shoot-tip graft of the normal finger lime. Fruit of the giant finger lime is much larger with larger juice vesicles that are more tear shaped than the regular Finger Lime.
Sydney Hyb US	4/25/1983	Originally obtained from Drs. Hutchison and Barrett, USDA, Orlando 4/25/1983 for planting in the arboretum. Seedling line from this introduction. <i>Microcitrus</i> hybrid. Origin: Australia, hybrid of round lime and finger lime.

UF's focus on developing improved finger limes

- Two new UF released varieties
 - UF Sunlime
 - UF Redlime
- Very limited acreage
 - Between 7 and 10 acres being cultivated statewide
- Challenge
 - Harvest due to the thorniness of the bushes/trees

Finger lime for the Florida homeowner



**HLB-tolerant
cultivar**



Low maintenance



Visual appeal

Finger lime for the Florida homeowner



UF SunLime



UF RedLime

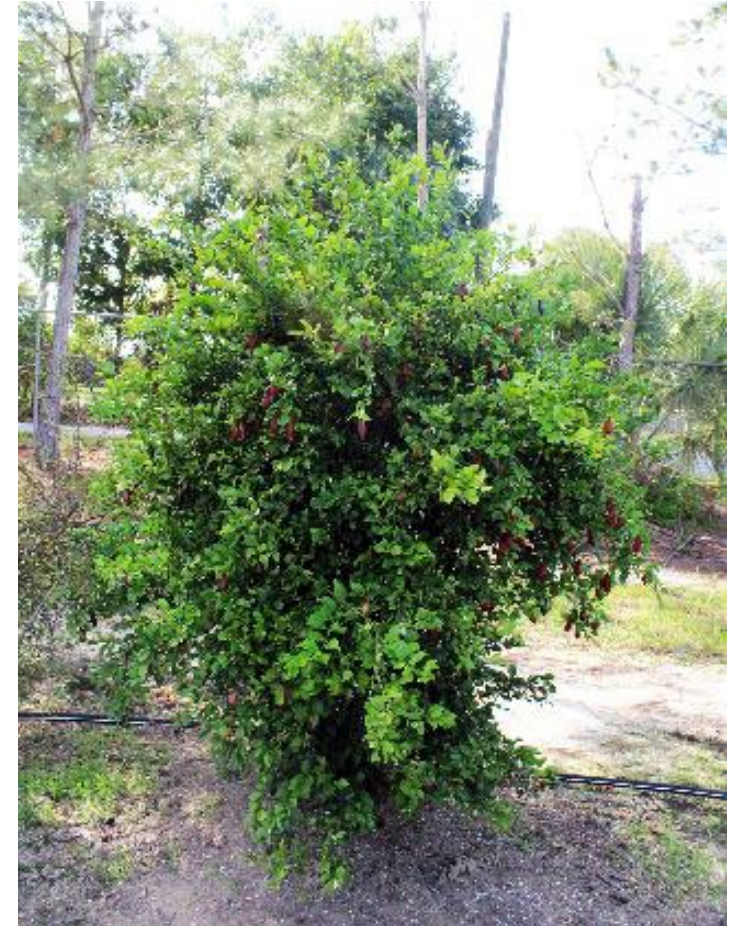
Attractive external appearance that enhances fresh market potential

UF Sunlime fruit

- Fruit
 - Weight: Ranges from 26.14 - 34.66 grams
 - Average length: 2.8 - 3 inches
 - Average number of seeds: Ranges from 0 - 6

UF Sunlime unique characteristics

- Makes a medium sized scraggly bush; trees at 7 years old were 8 feet tall in Lake Alfred, Florida
- Trees flower sporadically throughout the year, main bloom is February-March
- Yield data is limited; however, a 6-year-old mature tree can produce approximately 150 fruits



UF Sunlime



Immature fruit



Mature fruit

**Mature and immature
fruit on the same tree!**



UF Sunlime



UF Redlime fruit

- Fruit
 - Weight: 18.72 – 24.10 grams
 - Average length: 2.91 – 3.92 inches
 - Average number of seeds: Ranges from 16 – 23

UF Redlime unique characteristics

- Makes an upright scraggly bush with an open canopy
- Plants at six years old were approximately 6 feet tall in Lake Alfred, Florida
- Young flush is always red in color
- Preliminary data indicates trees to be resistant to HLB; no bacterium has been detected in these trees
- Trees flower sporadically throughout the year, main bloom is February-March
- Yield data is limited; however, a 6-year-old mature tree can produce 80-90 fruits

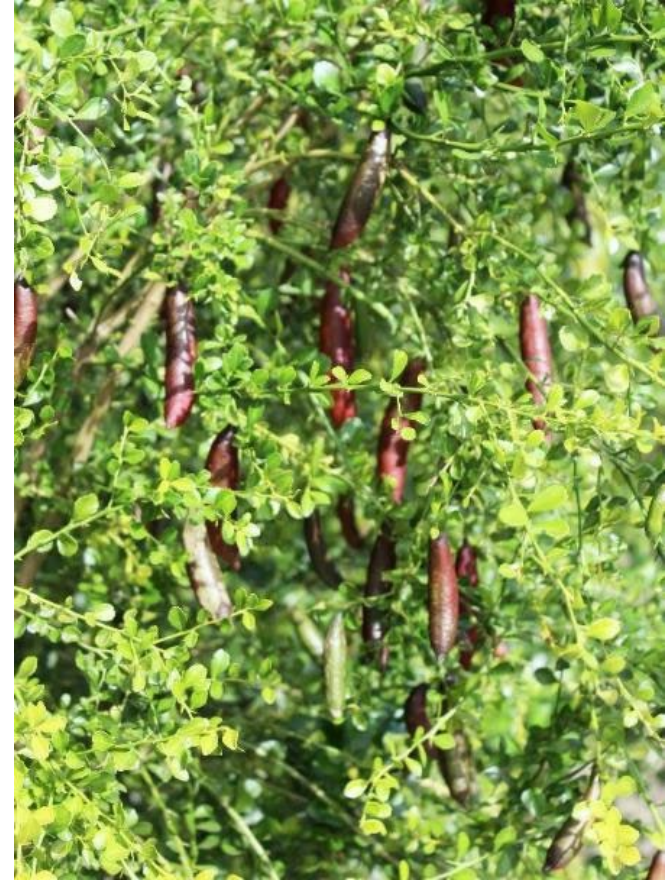
UF Redlime



Immature fruit

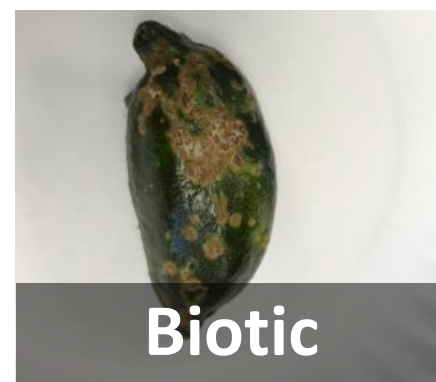
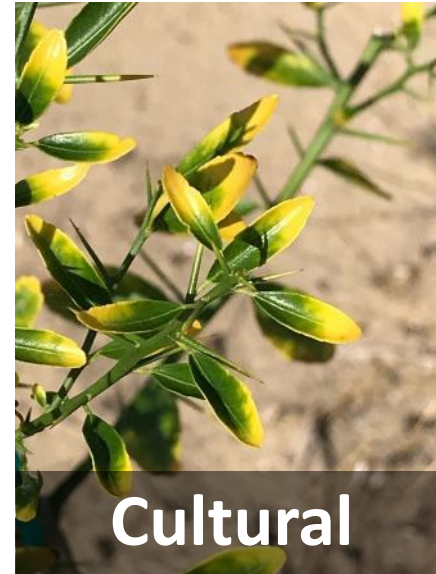


Mature fruit



Mature fruit in tree

Some issues to be aware of



Where to buy finger limes



Brite Leaf Nursery <https://www.briteleaf.com/>



Phillip Rucks Citrus Nursery <https://ruckscitrusnursery.com/>



Southern Citrus Nurseries <https://southerncitrusnurseries.com/>

Additional resources

<https://australianlimes.ifas.ufl.edu>



Scan QR code
to visit website

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Any questions?

Thank you!



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