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

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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

Australia has the most acreage under finger lime cultivation.

Small acreages in Asia, Europe and Africa.

In the US, majority of the finger limes are produced in California and Hawaii.

In Florida, finger lime acreage is expanding as growers become aware.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety Clone</th>
<th>Entry Date</th>
<th>DPI Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Finger Lime 697 CGIP-233</td>
<td>6/21/2017</td>
<td>Introduced from California. Commercial cultivar grown in CA and HI.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finger Lime Giant DPI-205-4</td>
<td>3/27/2006</td>
<td>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.</td>
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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

Photo: T.R. Weeks, UF/IFAS
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

Photo: M. Dutt and T.R. Weeks, UF/IFAS
UF Sunlime

Immature fruit

Mature fruit

Photo: M. Dutt, UF/IFAS
Mature and immature fruit on the same tree!
UF Sunlime

Photo: M. Dutt, UF/IFAS
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

Photo: M. Dutt, UF/IFAS
Some issues to be aware of

Photo: M. Dutt, UF/IFAS
Where to buy finger limes

Brite Leaf Nursery [https://www.briteleaf.com/](https://www.briteleaf.com/)

Phillip Rucks Citrus Nursery [https://ruckscitrusnursery.com/](https://ruckscitrusnursery.com/)

Southern Citrus Nurseries [https://southerncitrusnurseries.com/](https://southerncitrusnurseries.com/)
Additional resources

https://australianlimes.ifas.ufl.edu

Photo: M. Dutt, UF/IFAS

Scan QR code to visit website
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Any questions?

Thank you!