New York and Florida tangerines are different

Q. The tangerines I remember as a kid growing up in New York during the 1930’s were different from the Florida tangerines I found when I moved here. They were smaller, seedless and peeled and divided into segments very easily. I don't remember seeing anything like them until last year when I found boxes of "California Clementines" being sold locally. I've also seen Satsuma and Clementine Mandarins available locally as products of California. Are they all the same fruit? Can they be grown in Florida? Are they the same tangerine I remember from many years ago?

A. (Answer provided by Dr. Steve Futch, UF/IFAS Extension Multi-County Citrus Agent in Hardee County) The Clementines are not grown to any extent in Florida but are grown extensively in the more arid regions of the world like California, South Africa, Morocco and Spain. Clementines are easy to peel, small in size and are usually seedless. The current varieties of Clementines do not fruit well in Florida. We have some mandarins like Satsuma that grow well in North Florida. Satsuma is the most cold-hardy of the currently grown varieties in Florida. The mandarin like fruit grown on the greatest acreage in Florida is the Sunburst. Sunburst is a hybrid between Robinson and Osceola that was made in 1961 by the USDA. Sunburst is seedy and not as easy to peel as the Clementines.

Q. When is the best time to prune camellias, boxwoods, roses and crape myrtles?

A. Camellias can be pruned shortly after they flower. Boxwoods can be pruned as needed, March through September. Boxwoods do not respond well to severe pruning, though. The main pruning for bush roses is done in February and most years bush roses will benefit from another less severe pruning in September. The best time to prune crape myrtles is during late winter/early spring (late February to March) just before new growth occurs. Below is a web publication on pruning.

http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/MG087

Q. Can I still transplant a shrub in my landscape?

A. Now is a great time to transplant a shrub. Minimize the time it’s out of the ground (preferable, already have the new hole prepared), make sure to replant so that it is at the same level it was originally growing (no deeper) and make sure to water to keep the root area evenly moist but not soggy wet until it is reestablished.

Q. When I pruned my grapevines, the cut end of the stems continued to “bleed.” Is this a problem?

A. No, it is common for water to continue to drip out of the cuts on grapevines after pruning. Eventually the cuts will seal and the “bleeding” will stop.

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