

Suncoast Tropical Fruit and Vegetable Club

Meeting Notice

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 13, 2015
Where: Main Room Nokomis Community Center
234 Nippino Trail East, Nokomis, FL 34275
Agenda: 6:30 pm Chat and Tasting Table
7:00 pm Introduction and Presentation
8:30 pm Plant Raffle

Speaker: Florida Urban Organics
Christian Colarusso, Director of Operations

Topic: Hydroponics and Aquaponics

Florida Urban Organics and its parent company Selovita have been certified organic by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). They have also earned a one-of-a-kind distinction by becoming the first aquaponics/hydroponics facility ever to be European GlobalG.A.P. Certified. This is an honor awarded to growers that maintain stringent standards of food safety, sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Florida Urban Organics/Selovita blends science and technology with agriculture and then microbiology. They grow 35,000 pounds of organic vegetables (lettuce and microgreens) and cultivate 42,000 tilapia fish in a dozen giant 54,000-gallon pools that look like above-ground swimming pools.

The company also started a non-profit called iSeedUSA, educating people from poor or marginalized communities on how to develop their own sustainable agricultural systems. They offer "Aquaponics in a Box," complete with all of the equipment needed to start a viable project.

The presentation will focus on the who, what, where, why, and how of Selovita and the company's mission to food security and their role in sustainability. It will provide details and overall fundamentals of Aquaculture and Hydroponics and how that translates into the fish, lettuce and microgreens they produce. Also included will be a "How to: Backyard Aquaponics."