

# *Suncoast Tropical Fruit and Vegetable Club*

## *Meeting Notice*

- Next Meeting:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017
- 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:** Dr. Shinsuke Agehara, Assistant Professor,  
Horticultural Sciences, University of Florida/IFAS  
Gulf Coast Research and Education Center
- Topic:** Developing Alternative Specialty Crops in Florida:  
Opportunities and Challenges including  
Blackberry, Pomegranate, Artichoke and Hops

Dr. Shinsuke Agehara, is an Assistant Professor, Horticultural Sciences, at the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Gulf Coast Research and Education Center. The research and extension program of his group focuses on the development of vegetable and fruit production practices to improve productivity, product quality, and resource conservation.

His program covers Florida's major crops including tomato, strawberry, blueberry, bell pepper, and cucurbits, as well as new specialty crops such as blackberry and pomegranate. The research of his group emphasizes understanding plant morphological and physiological adaptation mechanisms to environmental stimuli and stresses and incorporating the knowledge to develop integrated production practices.

His goal is to transfer the knowledge from his research programs to growers. He collaborates with county extension agents and a range of scientists to develop and promote educational programs for growers and students.