



Fruit trees in the tropics

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Seeing how tiny my garden is you would think I would not be venturing into fruit trees, but things happen, you get a cutting, or you see something you really would like to try, and pretty soon you have a collection of fruit trees. Of course our very large tree is a lychee tree but we are on the fringes of lychee growing, and really I don't mind if we don't get fruit as the tree is too big to net, and if we get too much fruit we will have to put up with flying foxes (bats) which doesn't really appeal to me. We do get birds with huge heavy beaks which seem to find the few fruit that does appear.

So onto the back vegetable garden....

where I have pawpaw trees on either side - one male on the right and one female on the left. The female has been bearing nonstop for about 2 years, but now is getting quite high and I really must lop the top off it. Stay tuned for a post devoted to this process.

Here you can see how high they are, and how many I am going to lose when I lop the top off :(

When we first moved in I bought this little tree called a barbados cherry. Supposedly it is a small compact tree and the fruits are very high in vitamin c. Originally it was planted next to the herb spiral, then we erected a frame over the herb spiral to protect it from the heavy summer rains. This poor tree was merrily growing in the shade and had almost reached the arch when I decided to move it. It was growing just one branch up - seeking the light I think. The roots were entangled in the rocks from the spiral and I had to cut some off. I did prune it back, but maybe not enough as the leaves are still looking quite droopy. This is now in the back of the asparagus bed - I removed a pineapple plant to make room. I have decided pineapples are really too much trouble and take up too much room. We have a pineapple farm down the road and he has a little honesty stand where you can pick up delicious pineapples for 2.00 each.

Next in line along the back fence I have a pineapple guava which my neighbour gave me. I had it in a pot originally to keep it small but it grew right out the bottom of the pot and I thought - oh gosh - why not just plant it into the ground. So there it is..... in my line of fruit trees along the back of the vegetable garden! It is showing lots of lovely new growth since its move into the ground.

I also have my little lime tree in a pot in the front garden - will that be moved to the back line of fruit trees eventually or is it better to leave it in a pot out front? there are pros and cons. Citrus trees do not like inconsistent watering, and I must admit I am not very good at keeping the pot well watered. It might do better in the ground where the vegetables around them get watered and it can grow deep roots and maybe not need to be watered as much.

Then again I think it might have more bugs in the back than its present open position in the front.

This was the host plant for my lovely butterflies and the caterpillars managed to munch on quite a few leaves before they were moved to sacrificial kaffir lime leaves. It has developed some sort of curling leaf syndrome on the new leaves - would it be better off amongst the vegetables where there are lots of beneficial insects?

does anyone know what these curling leaves could be? I can't see any insects

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