

One Morning with Eugenia aquea Flowers

Written by Administrator
Friday, 25 June 2010 04:02



Time showed 6 o'clock in that house which looks like a palace. With the coming of the sunrise, Widartono started his activity. Alone he went to his front and side yard to take care of his 30 Eugenia aqueas. Once at a time his hand cast out useless water sprout and branches. He held and plucked some of the ripe fruits. That is the morning daily routine of the owner of PT Gunung Jati in his Eugenia aquea garden.



An hour passed, he sat on the porch accompanied by a cup of tea while smoking a white cigarette. The *Syzygium* Sp fruits, which he had plucked, were cleaved with a special knife. He ate them as the substitute for unwashed morning breakfast. Those fruits are free from pesticide thus they are safe to be consumed even unwashed. Unnoticedly, he had eaten all of them.

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'Every morning is like this. Mind becomes fresh seeing green and red assembling on the trees. The fruits that are eaten eliminate hunger.' said the husband of Sylvia Liyenita.

Since 5 years ago, the house located in Kedoya, West Jakarta, has been like a paradise for Widartono. He changed his 100m² side yard into a garden. There, 15 eugenia aquea trees grow well and successfully bear fruit. His collection is not only one but various variety. To name a few, there are Citra, King Rose Apple, Madura, Cincalo Madu, Lilin Hijau, Lilin Merah, and Bangkok variety. In the front yard, there are 5 eugenia aquea trees which welcome every guest as they come.

Childhood

It is for a reason why this man who was born in Banyuwangi 50 years ago chose eugenia aquea. Little young Widartono often played mock warfare in an eugenia aquea garden. His gun was made of bamboo, the bullets was from eugenia flowers. 'We played until we overwhelmed. We didn't feel the pain. My grandmother often got mad seeing my body reddening for getting hit by eugenia bullets,'remembered Widartono.

His longing of childhood seemed to be cured when a bestfriend offered eugenia aquea, mango, and durian (*Durio zibethinus*) as garden ornament. There were total 10 trees in general. Without further thinking any longer, in 2000 he spent 10 millions Rupiah for those various plants.

Unfortunately, Kedoya climate is only suitable for eugenia aquea because that relative of clove has vast climate spreading. 'Finally, I chose eugenia aquea. I only left out 1 mango and durian tree, yet they rarely bear fruit.' he said.

The eugenia aquea trees which grow well and bear fruit rapidly makes Widartono deeply fall in love with that bell shape fruit. Four years later his collections have multiplied into 50 trees. Those were the prize of hunting to some famous plantations in Jakarta and its surrounding. Then in 2005 he decreased his eugenia into 25 trees to be given to his business partners because he had so much difficulty to take care of too many trees. To enlarge knowledge, he flew to Thailand for several times. 'If we take care it intensely, local eugenia aquea will be as good as those eugenia aquea which are planted in Thailand,' he said.

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Special

The peaceful appearance of eugenia aquea garden is the result of Widartono's cold hand. 'He's the best hobiis. His eugenia aquea fruit can be 20% bigger and so can the leaves. it can be double the size when it was bought for the first time. It astonished me,' said Umar, a fruit supplier in Kelapa Gading, North Jakarta, who often supplies seeding for Widartono.

It is no wonder that the eugenia aquea planted in pots always perform ultimately. Their figure stand tall and strong and bear fruit rapidly, just like those which are planted on the ground. 'The key is simple, the Eugenia root in the pot has limited moving space. It is solved by giving rich nutrients medium,' said that lodging businessman.

The interesting appearance is also obtained without using non-organic manure. Widartono only depends on goat feces as nutrients. 'I had tried synthetic manure but the result was bad. The leaves were fallen because they were heated. Some other time the leaves were green and thick, but the tree did not bear any fruit,' he said. Finally, he turned to goat feces mixed with paddy husk.

All year long

Many varieties are grown, therefore that father of 3 daughters can consume eugenia aquea all year long. 'Harvest time for each variety is different,' he said. When Trubus visited his house the end of May, Pink Rose Apple and Bangkok variety are full of reddening green fruit.

There were too many fruits that made Widartono had to built a wooden *kas*o and bamboo as a support. The fruit stalks were bundled by ropes and hang on the support to prevent the branches from falling down because of too heavy weight.

Another trees such as cincalo and king rose apple variety bear valve and young fruit. Those tumb size fruits were covered with used newspaper. 'Unless they are wrapt, plant disease will

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attack them. The outer fruit looks smooth but the inside is spoilt,' he said. At the corner of the garden, Citra and Lilin Merah variety showed white flowers.

Smashing Manure

Taking care of 50 eugenia aqueas gave a funny story for Widartono. The first year of plantation, he had to go to and fro many suppliers in Jakarta to find the perfect medium. Unfortunately the result was dissapointing. 'I don't trust barn-yard manure that are sold. The result is not good because it has been mixed with other medium,' he said. It resulted that when it is mixed with husk or wood shavings, its nutrients degree is lessen far.

Therefore, in the second year he decided to make manure himself. Along with an employee he hunt for goat feces to some small cattle-breedings in Tangerang, Bekasi, Bogor, and Depok. He had to dissolve those goat feces by smashing them using car tyres. 'I drove back and forth, my employee put the sack filled with goat feces. We were like children playing toy car,' he said. Smashed feces were then sieved and cooled down for 1-2 months in order to make the disentanglement process complete.

His hard work of making manure himself and taking care of them every day are worthed. There are many suppliers who supply him seeding are astonished seeing the garden crops are far more better than the crops in their origin. Even the business partners who come often ask him for some knowledge. If that is so, spending morning time for 5 years has been paid off. (**Destika Cahyana**)

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