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First In-Person Mango Melee Since 2019 Happens Today at the St. George Botanical Garden; Reggae Sunset Concert Follows

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The mango-eating competition during a past Mango Melee event. By. V.I. CONSORTIUM

The first in-person Mango Melee event — one of the largest family gatherings with yearly attendance in the thousands — will return to its traditional, in-person setting today at the St. George Botanical Garden on St. Croix.

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the last in-person Mango Melee was held in 2019, though organizers [in 2020 held a virtual event](#) which was carried live on the Consortium and had nearly 50,000 views.

The annual affair [saw one of its largest turnouts to date in 2019](#), drawing thousands of residents and visitors to the garden for a taste of St. Croix's culture, craft, and the island's wide variety of food. That year, organizers had widened the offering with more entertainment from local artists, more competition, and even a Gentlemen of Jones bar.

Vendors traditionally line all sides of the garden, giving eventgoers a wide array of food to choose from. Mango Melee has also been an event where people meet with friends and where acquaintances who hadn't connected for a while catch up.

This year, which marks Mango Melee's 26th anniversary, organizers the St. George Botanical Garden is hoping the move to in-person will bring back the event's glory days.

Gates open at noon until 5:00 p.m. The event will be followed by a sunset reggae concert featuring Dezarie.

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