



## DROP THAT FRUIT!

### THE FORBIDDEN-FRUIT UNDERGROUND

On customs declarations, lodged between important meat and dairy considerations, there's a small, hard-to-notice question about bringing fruit into the country. Everybody always checks the "NO" box, but there's a reason that question is asked: some fruits are illegal. In the US, getting caught with a pitahaya, a durian or a loquat is a felony punishable by law. Just ask the United States Department of Agriculture. Many tropical fruits have been banned south of the border due to pest fears, but Canada's markedly non-tropical climate means that the commercial importation of Asian and South American fruit (as well as their fruit flies) poses no threat to our crops. According to epicurean connoisseurs, the most exquisite fruit on the planet is the mangosteen. Sure, they're outlawed in the continental US, but they (as well as dragon fruit, longans, sapotes and many others) are readily available in specialized grocery stores and Chinatowns throughout Canada. Our favourite fruit haunts are:

MONTREAL: ÉPICERIE HÉNG HÉNG, 1071 ST-LAURENT. TORONTO: K & K TROPICAL FRUIT, 298 A SPADINA AVE. VANCOUVER: ASIA MARKET, 265 EAST HASTINGS ST.