



## **Regional Tree & Shade Summit**

# **Edible Infrastructure Bringing Food Trees to the Urban Environment**

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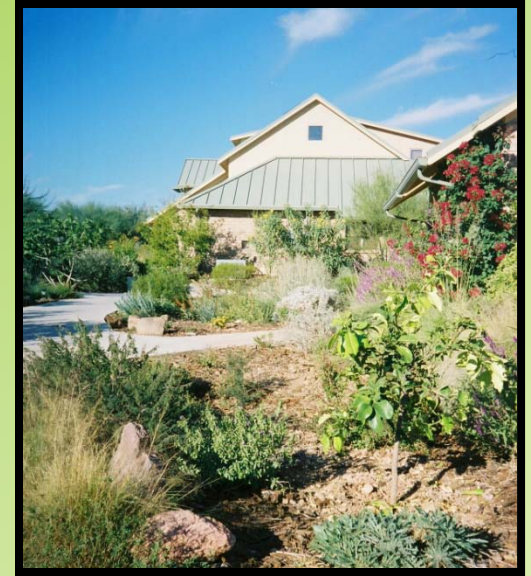
# *Why plant edible trees in the urban environment?*

- Same benefits as non-edible trees
  - Provide shade
  - Reduce heat island effect
  - Improve aesthetics
- Increase the quality & abundance of local food supply
- Increase local food security
- Expand the range of tree sizes, colors and textures
- Show connection between earth, trees, water and food
- Create new economic opportunities



## *Where can they be located?*

- Private residences
- Subdivision common areas
- Public rights-of-way
- Commercial sites
- In stormwater basins
- Government building sites
- Colleges and universities
- Botanical gardens
- Parks
- Zoos
- Small production orchards





## *Where will trees get their water?*

- Potable water that already waters non-edible trees
- Harvested rainwater
- Street runoff
- Stormwater
- Reclaimed water
- Graywater



# *Which trees could be planted?*

*Native trees are hardy and productive.....*

- Velvet mesquite
- Screwbean mesquite
- Desert ironwood
- Foothills palo verde
- Blue palo verde
- Over 250 edible and medicinal plants in the Sonoran Desert



## *Which trees could be planted?*

*Historic trees bring our past alive....*

- Kino Tree project
- Arizona Sonora Desert Museum – collecting cuttings
- Desert Survivors Nursery – growing the trees





## *Which trees could be planted?*

*Well-adapted nonnative trees are widely used already.....*

- Available at commercial nurseries
- High productivity in our challenging environment



## *Who will harvest the trees?*

- Passer-bys
- Householders
- Refugee harvesting network – Tucson
- Food bank gleaners - Phoenix
- Desert Harvesters - Tucson
- People working at commercial sites
- Guerilla gleaners





# *Where is urban edible landscaping being done?*

## **Mission San Agustin Garden, Tucson**



Black Mission Fig



Mission Grape



Quince



White Pomegranate





## *What issues might come up in urban areas?*

- Fruit and seed drop is messy
- Fruit trees need more water
- Trees need to be pruned and cared for to look good and produce
- Delay between planting time and fruit production
- Liability issues with people eating fruit
- Liability issues with people climbing trees to pick fruit





***Want to be part of a conversation on this subject?***

**Fall 2011, Workshop on edible urban landscapes, Tucson**  
***Please sign up if interested!***



## *Where can I learn more?*

### **EXAMPLE SITES**

The Urban Farm - Phoenix

Mission San Agustin Garden Project - Tucson

### **WATER HARVESTING**

Brad Lancaster's water harvesting - web source

City of Tucson Water Harvesting Guidance Manual

### **GLEANNING**

Iskash-Taa Refugee Harvesting Network - Tucson

Arizona Association of Food Banks - Phoenix

### **PLANT AND SEED SOURCES**

Desert Survivors Nursery: Kino trees - Tucson

Native Seed/SEARCH: seed source - web source

### **COOKBOOKS**

Desert Harvester's Mesquite Cookbook - web source

American Indian Food and Lore - web source