



Growing Edible Arizona Forests, An Illustrated Guide

Excerpt from leafnetworkaz.org

Edible Tree Guide

LEARN Values, Benefits and Characteristics

- Five Core Values

The mission of the Linking Edible Arizona Forests (LEAF) Network is ***Linking people with the benefits of edible trees and supporting edible trees with people's stewardship.***

We use the term *edible trees* to describe trees that produce fruits, nuts, seeds and pods that suit human tastes. Trees in people's yards, communities, orchards and open spaces create Arizona's Edible Forests.

Following the **FIVE CORE VALUES** described below can help you sustain edible trees now and for generations to come.

Carefully select appropriate edible trees.

Base your selection on personal and community needs, tree characteristics, current climate and site conditions and potential future conditions.

Create resilient sites for trees. Apply design strategies to sustainably build soil, harvest water, and plant and care for trees to ensure healthy, productive growth.

Share the bounty. To increase local health and food security, first meet your needs, and then share surplus with family, neighbors and the community to increase access to nutritious, local food.

Learn about, grow, harvest and celebrate trees as a community. Bring children, elders and your community together to learn about edible trees and share in their planting, care and harvest. Celebrate the good food, history, culture and stories of your community's trees.

Prepare for the long life of trees. Trees can live decades and even centuries. To benefit generations to come, write down the information future stewards will need to care for your trees.



MANDARIN FRUIT



PECAN NUTS



IRONWOOD SEEDS



MESQUITE PODS



SHARING THE BOUNTY