

## Growing Edible Arizona Forests, An Illustrated Guide

Excerpt from [leafnetworkaz.org](http://leafnetworkaz.org)

### Edible Tree Guide

#### LEARN Values, Benefits and Characteristic

- Benefits of Edible Trees

### Benefits of Edible Trees

All trees provide benefits to people and the environment. Edible trees add even more value.



*Shady olive grove*

**Trees provide shade and cooling.** Tree canopies provide shade, cool the air, reduce damaging sun exposure and reduce cooling costs.



*Urban ironwood tree*

**Trees purify air.** Leaves absorb carbon dioxide (a heat-trapping gas), release oxygen and intercept air pollutants.



*Leaf mulch*

**Trees build soil and reduce erosion.** Organic materials falling from trees aid in the growth of soil life. Tree canopies cushion the impact of raindrops. Roots hold soil in place.



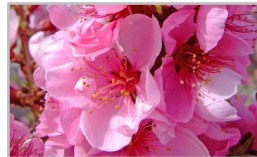
*Street curb cut*

**Trees moderate floods and purify stormwater.** Tree roots clean stormwater and improve water infiltration so rain nourishes plants instead of flooding streets.



*Windbreak*

**Trees screen negative conditions.** All trees screen wind, views, dust and noise.



*Peach blossoms*

**Trees enhance aesthetics.** All trees beautify and improve natural and built environments. Blossoms add special beauty.



*Done eating fruit*

**Trees improve wildlife habitat.** Trees provide food, shelter, and nesting sites for birds and other wildlife.



*Canned peaches*

**Edible trees improve food security.** Edible trees increase sustainable local food supplies, enhance variety and improve nutrition.



*Community citrus harvest*

**Edible trees build community.** People gather to care for, harvest, celebrate and learn about trees from one another.



*Local pear harvest*

**Edible trees save resources.** Local foods reduce fuels used to transport food long distances. Native edible trees can grow on rainfall alone.



*Locally produced olive oil*

**Trees provide economic benefits.** Trees produce structural wood, fuel, food, medicinal products and fiber and increase property values. Edible trees add community food sources and provide commercial food crops.