



Our Edible Landscape

Did you know the olive trees on campus are over 125 years old?

Originally planted by Robert Forbes in 1895, these trees are still producing fruit alongside many other bountiful species on campus.

Historically UA faculty used the campus grounds for testing potential agricultural commodities in Tucson's climate. As a result of decades of research and experimentation, the campus houses over 678 species - many of which produce tasty edible products. As you walk through campus, we hope you'll appreciate the beauty and utility of this living laboratory.

Read about the edible landscapes tour

<https://arboretum.arizona.edu/student-projects/2015-edible-landscape-tour>

Meet A Campus Arboretum Tour Guide



Hank Verbais is a coordinator for the Campus Arboretum tour program and leads tours along with other Pima Co. Master Gardener volunteer guides. He is highly accomplished as a certified master gardener, certified master naturalist, docent at the Watershed Management Group, and a trained local phenology leader.

After retiring from the Federal Aviation Administration in 2013, Hank felt drawn to pursue his passion for nature by becoming a docent at Tohono Chul Park. That position required him to learn about local history, ethnobotany, geology, and lead wildflower and butterfly tours.

"I love talking with people. That's the payback for me, being able to share and see people become excited about what we have here."

- Hank Verbais

Read more: <https://arboretum.arizona.edu/university-arizona-campus-arboretum-advisory-board>

Featured Plant: Pomegranate

Common Name: pomegranate

Family Name: Lythraceae

Botanical Name: *Punica granatum*



Native to the plains of Iran and Northern India, *P.*

granatum grows best in semi-arid climates and is extremely drought-tolerant. It is a multi-

branched small tree or large shrub with simple ovate leaves and bright red trumpet-shaped flowers. In Arizona, they flower between late winter and early spring, with fruit ripening in August and September. Depending on the size, a single pomegranate fruit can contain 200 to 1400 seeds! These seeds are packed with antioxidants that can reduce blood pressure and its anti-inflammatory properties may inhibit the growth of cancerous cells. Pomegranate fruit can be eaten raw, juiced, fermented, or used in ice cream and cakes.

[Click here to learn more or find this plant on campus](https://apps.cals.arizona.edu/arboretum/taxon.aspx?id=238)

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Campus Arboretum Tree Tours



Edible Landscapes



From syrups to wines - even chocolate substitutes, discover which plants on campus have delicious edible uses. The tour features Sonoran desert native plants and introduced arid-adapted species.

**Join the Pima Co. Master Gardeners for the
"Edible Landscapes Tour"
Sunday, December 4th, 2022 at 9:30am.**

Email infoarboretum@cals.arizona.edu to RSVP for the tour.

Can't join us in person?

Explore the virtual tour here:

<https://arboretum.arizona.edu/edible-landscapes-virtual-tour-landing-page>

CLICK HERE TO DONATE

Promote stewardship and conservation of urban trees in Arizona.

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA CAMPUS ARBORETUM

P.O. Box 210036 Tucson, AZ 85721-0036

PHONE: (520) 621-1582

E-MAIL: infoarboretum@ag.arizona.edu

WEBSITE: <http://arboretum.arizona.edu>

