

Somos Las Semilla – “We are the Seed”

2010 Santa Cruz Valley Organic Farm & Garden Tour

Agua Linda Farm is a 63-acre family owned and operated farm in the lush Santa Cruz River Valley in Amado, Arizona. The farm was voted one of the top places to visit last year by Tucson Lifestyle Magazine. Agua Linda grows vegetables for the local community available at The Farm Store, through a CSA program, through harvest festivals and farmers markets. The Farm Store will be open selling seasonal veggies, grass fed beef, local honey, handmade soaps and more. Farmer, Stewart Loew will be available for tours all day on the hour. The Garden Grill will be open serving up organic, grass fed beef burgers and more. AND - free hayrides around the farm will be provided. Learn more about the farm at www.AguaLindaFarm.net.

Address & Directions: Take Interstate 19 to Exit 42. Get onto the East Frontage Road and turn south. This will change into a dirt road, which is the driveway. Address is 2643 East Frontage Road

Forever Yong Farm

We are an “all natural” family farm located in the pristine and beautiful Southern Arizona borderlands. Our wonderful bottomland soil and pure water enable us to produce high quality fresh chemical free produce for local markets. We use a variety of methods to combat the challenging growing conditions of the Sonoran Desert including greenhouses, shade clothes, mulches, row covers, and drip irrigation. These techniques will be seen and explained on tour day. Also, in season produce will be made available for sale.

Address & Directions: From Tucson, take I-19 south thru Green Valley. Exit at Arivaca Rd. (48). Go west on Arivaca Rd. which starts directly across from the Longhorn Grill landmark. Follow the mile marker signs which decrease as you proceed west. After mm 12 but just before mm 11 take a left on Moyza Ranch Rd. We are the last place on the left (about 1.5 miles.) Address is 33225 Arivaca Rd.

Continental Elementary School has had a school garden for students since the early 1980's. With the help of a dedicated group of volunteers the students maintain six raised beds for flowers and vegetables along with a concrete block composting area. Students and volunteers also maintain our Butterfly Garden in the shape of a butterfly with native plants that attract swarms of butterflies and hummingbirds in season. In the Dent Caton Greenhouse, built by community supporters and volunteers in 1995, students start plants from seeds or cuttings and use hydroponic growing systems for vegetables and flowers. Students maintain a Nature Trail that winds through the desert behind the school for walking field trips with bird watching and observing native plant and wildlife animal tracks. The After School Garden Program is supported by Arizona Tax Credit donations that provide funding for supplies and staffing of the Garden Program at Continental School. Students will give guided tours of butterfly gardens, hydroponic system and parents of students will be available to talk about the benefits of “Green Education” program.

Address & Directions: 1991 E. Whitehouse Canyon Rd. on the road to Madera Canyon from Green Valley.

The Arivaca Community Garden is a project of PPEP Inc., a Tucson based, state wide non-profit corporation committed to improving life in rural Arizona. The ACG began in 1996 to increase the availability of locally grown produce for the communities of Arivaca, Amado, and Green Valley. It is funded by local and federal grants and from the sale of produce. The ACG is a 3 acre staff run farm

producing between 10,000 and 20,000 pounds of food a year which is sold locally and donated to food banks in Amado and Green Valley. To help get the work done it relies on local volunteers who are rewarded with fresh produce. The ACG is a certified organic operation using no chemical fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides and required to use growing practices that improve farm fertility rather than deplete it. We encourage populations of beneficial insects to control the bad bugs, have chickens and guinea fowl to eat them, produce large amounts of compost and plant nitrogen fixing cover crops that are tilled into the soil. During the winter the main crops are snow peas, carrots, lettuce, spinach, chard, kale and turnips. Summer time crops include tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, beans, squash, watermelons and eggplant. A tractor is used for field preparation as well as the turning and screening of the large piles of compost and two large greenhouses for winter and summer production. There is an extensive underground irrigation system. Produce from the garden is also used by a food preservation cooperative of Arivaca volunteers who get together to can tomatoes, make pickles and pesto at the Arivaca Community Center's certified kitchen which are also sold along with the produce at two farmers markets. To support our program buy our locally grown fresh produce at the Green Valley Farmers Market on Wednesdays at the Green Valley Mall.

Address & Directions: Take I-19 south from Tucson. Take exit 48, Arivaca Rd. Amado. Take a right off the ramp and a right at the stop sign onto the frontage road. Take a left onto Arivaca road and go 23 miles to the town of Arivaca. At the end of town take a left onto S. 5th Ave that turns into Fragueta, which turns into Ruby Road. Follow Ruby Road until you come to Wedgeford rd. on the left, there is a sign for the garden. Follow Wedgeford to the end and go through the left hand gate, there is a sign for the Arivaca Community Garden.

Vegetable Demonstration Garden at University of Arizona, Pima County Cooperative Extension, Green Valley Satellite Office

Mini Garden is open to the public seven days a week. Master Gardeners are available to answer questions, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 12 noon. (520) 648-0808. The garden shows people how to grow the most in a small area. We have in-ground gardens, raised bed gardens and container gardens. We have grown anything from Artichokes to Zucchini. Master Gardeners are constantly experimenting with what will grow here, when it will grow and what variety will grow best. So stop by and take a look. We also have a lovely ornamental garden.

Address & Directions: 1100 E. Whitehouse Canyon Rd. The road to Madera Canyon from Green Valley. Look for playground equipment on right side of road just after crossing the railroad tracks. Garden is located at back of building.

Farmers Investment Co DBA Santa Cruz Valley Organic Farms Farmers Investment Co DBA The Green Valley Pecan Company is located 25 miles south of Tucson in the heart of the southwest with year round sunshine, good quality water and soil. It is the perfect place to grow the perfect pecan. We first began the transition of our pecan farm to organic production in 2000. We became certified organic in 2004. We currently have 1000 acres of certified organic pecans with additional 150 acres in transition. We welcome you to join us for a tour and presentation of our organic production at 9:00, 11:00, 1:00, 3:00 and 5:00. We are scheduling tours of our organic fields and a presentation at our retail store. We are unable to give plant tours due to FDA and Health safety Regulations. We apologize in advance for the inconvenience.

Address & Directions: I-10 East to I-19 South (Head towards Nogales). I-19 to Exit 75 (Sahuarita Road) turn left (head East) Pass through 3 stop lights, the third stop light is Old Nogales Highway.

Go through the light and our Processing plant and retail store will be on your left about 1/2mile. Look for the signs Green Valley Pecan Company and the Pecan Store with our Squirrel. 1525 East Sahuarita Road in Sahuarita. 520-791-2062 in case you get lost.

Avalon Organic Gardens, Farm & Ranch, Tumacácori

www.avalongardens.org, 520-603-9932

Our 165-acre ranch land was continuously farmed for many centuries and we are honoring this tradition and plan on annually increasing the quality of its products and the beautification of all its special places. Our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program delivers weekly harvest shares to Tubac, Patagonia, Green Valley, Tucson and many pick up onsite. We offer seasonal organic vegetables all year. You can sign up anytime at www.avalongardens.org/csa.

We offer a Personality Integration Rehabilitation Program for challenged teens and adults (www.pirp.info), with agricultural training as a major part of the healing process. We are a thriving Eco-Village and intentional community of 100 individuals of all ages from 5 continents with many sustainable building and living practices. You will see Cal-Earthdomes and other alternative building sites; Rain and Greywater harvesting techniques; greenhouses and extensive gardens; pasture grazed cattle, horses, chicken, emus; geese and a large goatherd which gets milked twice a day.

Soil-building display will include compost making, Effective Micro-organism (EM) application, compost teas & mulch types. Free hayrides, lots of food as well as all of our seasonal produce (and Garlic braids) for sale.

Directions: If it's raining please call 520-603-9932 for different directions.

From Tucson, Take I-10 East to I-19 south towards Nogales. Take Tumacacori/Carmen Exit # 29. At stop sign off Interstate ramp turn left and pass under the Interstate to the stop sign at the East Frontage Rd. Turn left (north) on East Frontage Rd. Drive less than ½ mile north; turn right on Santa Gertrudis Lane (under big archway). Drive approximately ½ mile on the dirt. You will go through a low-water crossing. (Usually about six inches of water—don't stop in the middle—just keep moving through the water. This time of year it can be soft, but don't stop.) Our ranch is on the left just before the railroad tracks. Gate will be open. Once you come in our gate, our lane is about one mile long. At one point the lane turns 90 degrees to the right and you need to stop at the railroad tracks please and check for a possible train both ways! Pass by the first white house on your right and continue to the designated parking area after the last building on the right.

Tour is presented by Somos la Semilla “We are the Seed” Network working to build healthy food systems in Arizona-Sonora borderland communities: Mariposa Community Health Center (Platicamos Salud) and Baja Arizona Sustainable Agriculture, Avalon Gardens, Forever Yong Farm and the Tucson Community Food Bank with the Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Alliance.

More information www.somoslasemilla.org or (520) 904-8102