



THE UNIVERSITY
OF ARIZONA

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

4210 N. Campbell Avenue • Tucson AZ 85719-1109 • (520) 626-5161 • FAX: (520) 626-5849

July 27, 2015

Dr. Merrill Eisenberg
merrill@email.arizona.edu

Dear Dr. Eisenberg,

Thank you for your request regarding ways in which Pima County Cooperative Extension can support urban agriculture activities and the services we offer to Pima County residents who wish to learn more about urban agriculture. In response to your request, I have listed below the many programs and resources available through Extension. As you can see, our services are available in many modalities including in-person workshops, online publications, information hotlines, and examples of installations (e.g., demonstration gardens). Contact information, schedules, and links to online resources can be found at the Pima Cooperative Extension web site: <http://extension.arizona.edu/pima>.

Pima County Master Gardeners are university-trained volunteers who serve as community educators. They work with the UA Cooperative Extension to provide researched-based information on environmentally responsible gardening and landscaping to the public. For gardening questions, call the Plant Clinic 520-626-5161, Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm.

Master Gardener Home Garden Consulting Service: Pima County Master Gardeners offer a home garden consulting service to local residents. Consultants who are experienced and knowledgeable in urban horticulture will identify plants, diagnose insect problems and plant diseases, evaluate watering issues, and provide general care guidelines. Master Gardener Consultants will spend up to one hour in the client's garden or landscape answering questions and helping to problem-solve. No physical labor will be performed. The fee for this service is \$40 for residents living within a 10-mile radius of the Pima County Cooperative Extension Office at the intersection of Campbell Avenue and River Road. The fee for residents living more than 10 miles one-way from the Extension Office is \$60.00. To request a consultation, call the Plant Clinic at 626-5161 or email fcorrell@cals.arizona.edu.

The Urban Horticulture Program works with homeowners, landscape professionals, and urban farmers to promote integrated pest management and other best management practices for horticulture in the Sonoran Desert. The Urban Horticulture Program collaborates with local organizations such as the Community Gardens of Tucson, the Community Food Bank, Tucson Beekeepers, and the Pima County Food Alliance to support the needs of urban agriculture in the Tucson metropolitan area. Monthly meetings with stakeholders are held to determine needs in the community and how to address them. Monthly education sessions with the community gardeners at their garden locations are held in collaboration with the Pima County Master Gardeners to educate the public about growing their own food. The Urban Horticulture Agent is available to speak to groups of interested people about urban agriculture as needed. Individual consultations with the Urban Horticulture Agent are available for those in need of advice on plant health and pest management by contacting the Pima County Extension Office by email, telephone, and in person.

The SmartScape Program is a landscape water conservation and education program providing workshops, seminars and field instruction specifically designed for Green Industry professionals and residential water users in the Tucson area. The program goal is to promote efficient water use in sustainable urban landscapes which, in turn has the potential to create savings in water, cost, maintenance and energy.

Tucson Village Farm (TVF) is a working urban farm designed to reconnect young people to a healthy food system, teach them how to grow and prepare fresh food, and empower them to make healthy life choices. We target urban youth from all ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. TVF also has a chicken coop demonstration project and periodically teaches classes on proper care for chickens in an urban setting.

The Garden Kitchen is a seed to table program that provides an interactive, hands-on environment for children and adults to learn the importance of good nutrition and physical activity. The goal of this program is to teach community members how to grow, buy, properly store, and cook nutritious, low cost food. The demonstration garden provides information on economical ways to install gardens in a small space. There is also a demonstration water-harvesting system.

Urban Horticulture publications: <http://cals.arizona.edu/maricopa/garden/pubs.htm> There are numerous publications on urban horticulture topics including food safety procedures and best practices for desert gardening and small-scale composting.

The Food Products and Safety Laboratory provides food product safety and testing services for the food industry and consumers. A full range of testing and services are available including microbial evaluation, nutritional label analyses and chemical composition and microbial analyses of food items. The UA Food Products and Safety facility is the only one of its kind at a University in the Southwest.

Master Consumer Advisors are available by phone to answer questions about food safety and food preservation, among other things. They also check pressure canning gauges and provide information on appropriate levels based on altitude in the Tucson area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan McDonald', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dan McDonald, Ph.D.
Area Associate Agent/Associate Regional Specialist