Re-creating Historical Orchards:
The Potential Role of a Statewide Network

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LEAF Workshop 9-14-2012
Mission Garden
Tucson

**Period represented:** ca. 1800 – 1840s

**Project timeline:** Cuttings collected since 2004; Orchard replanted 2012

**Fruit tree varieties:** 119 trees, including figs, quinces, pomegranates, pears, plums, apricots, sweet limes, sour oranges; also 24 grape vines

**Sources of historical information:** 1820s and 1840s Mexican period descriptions; 49’er account; descriptions of mission orchards in Sonora and Baja California.

**Sources of funding:** Arizona Forestry Division; Friends of Tucson’s Birthplace; Southwestern Foundation for Education and Historic Preservation

**Project partners:** Friends of Tucson’s Birthplace; City of Tucson Historic Preservation Office and Parks & Recreation Dept.; Pima County; Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum; Desert Survivors Nursery; Lloyd Construction; Cox Masonry; Tucson Adobe
Mission Garden
Tucson

**Issues encountered/lessons learned:** Archaeology; adjacent landfill; heavy and saline soil requiring amendments; site drainage; grasshoppers and weeds; need for low-elevation adapted varieties.

**Future phases:** More water harvesting; planting additional varieties; tree nursery; garden; understory plants; more shade ramadas!

**Contact info:** Roger Pfeuffer rogerp1315@cox.net
Tumacacori National Historical Park/Landmark
Santa Cruz County

Period represented: ca. 1780 - 1820

Project timeline: Cuttings collected 2004; Orchard replanted 2007

Fruit tree varieties: 65 trees, including figs, quinces, pomegranates

Sources of historical information: Descriptions of mission orchards in Sonora; 49’ers accounts of untended orchard mention apples, pears, peaches, poms, grapes; 1930s maps showing peaches, poms, pears, and figs growing along still-flowing acequia.

Sources of funding: NPS, Desert SW Cooperative Ecosystems Study Unit (NPS/UA)

Project partners: UA (Desert Southwest CESU); Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum; Native Seed/SEARCH; Desert Survivors Nursery
Tumacacori National Historical Park/Landmark
Santa Cruz County

**Issues encountered/lessons learned:** Need robust and knowledgeable volunteer base; staff to manage volunteers; irrigation system needs constant monitoring; vulnerability to freezes at 3200’ elevation; grasshoppers and weeds; poor soil quality required amendments; gophers!

**Future phases:** Focus on success of existing trees; planting plums and peaches; moving figs to locations near walls, “where they can hear people talk.”

**Contact info:** Jason Welborn, jason_welborn@nps.gov
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site
Ganado

**Period represented:** ca. 1905 – 1930s

**Project timeline:** Orchard replanted in 2008

**Fruit tree varieties:** Heirloom apples, apricots, peaches

**Sources of historical information:** Business and personal correspondence files at NPS library at Hubbell NHS and Hubbell’s nursery and seed catalogs University of Arizona Special Collections

**Sources of funding:** Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystems Study Unit grant (NPS/NAU)

**Project partners:** NAU Center for Sustainable Environments, NPS, Navajo farmers from nearby Dine communities

**Contact info:** Mick Castillo, Mick_Castillo@nps.gov
La Posada
Winslow

**Period represented:** ca. 1929 – 1950s

**Project timeline:** Orchard not planted because of Depression; planted in 2001 according to original plans

**Fruit tree varieties:** Heirloom apples, peaches, plums, pears, cherries, quinces

**Sources of historical information:** Original plans from 1929

**Sources of funding:** Revenue from hotel

**Project Partners:** Flagstaff FoodLink

**Contact info:** Pat Pynes, Patrick.Pynes@nau.edu
Slide Rock State Park
Sedona

**Period represented:** 1912 – today

**Project timeline:** Purchased by Arizona State Parks in 1985; designated Pendley Homestead Historic District in 1991

**Fruit tree varieties:** 300 apple trees

**Sources of historical information:** Continuously cultivated

**Sources of funding:** Arizona State Parks, Friends of Slide Rock State Park

**Project partners:** Friends of Slide Rock State Park

**Contact info:** Steve Pace, pace@azstateparks.gov
Potentials of a Statewide LEAF Network for re-creating historical orchards:

- Conservation & dissemination
- Heritage preservation
- Research
- Increasing food security and sustainability
- More edible trees in urban landscapes and public lands
- Information sharing
- Public awareness and education
- Agritourism & heritage tourism
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