

Desert Harvesters Manifesto

Nature is a system of abundance, cycles, and efficiency. We can mimic that.

Increase the fecundity of plants and their companions.

Leave and invest fallen pods, leaves, and cut-up prunings as fertile mulch for animals, soil life, and trees.

Say “thank you” for your harvest with generous actions.

Turn landscapes into lifescapes and lushscapes.

Give back. REINVEST.

We live in a land of precious water.

Use local, free, and gravity-fed water, rather than imported, costly, and mechanically pumped waters.

Therefore PLANT THE RAIN.

Capture rainwater by digging basins and other earthworks.

Catch rainwater runoff from roofs.

Divert public street runoff into public right-of-way rain gardens.

When you grow and harvest rain-irrigated desert food you ENHANCE our local ecosystem.

HARVEST nearby.

Look for wild native-food sources in your backyard, rights-of-way, and urban trails.

If they don't exist there, PLANT them.

Re-plant and re-wild the urban and suburban core.

If you live in rural areas, look around! Learn what surrounds you.

See the abundance? Savor it.

DELIGHT your taste buds.

Be a culinary cupid. Introduce new flavors to one another.

Find new combinations of traditional, wild foods. INNOVATE.

Prickly pear borscht, anyone? Mesquite muesli?

Practice place-based, place-appropriate, place-inspired fusion.

We're not in Kansas anymore.

Be here now. CELEBRATE.

Give thanks to the ancestors.

Make offerings for the future.

Contribute to food, fertility, and water security, here, now, and for your children, their children, and their children.

Expand your COMMUNITY.

Meet your fellow desert dwellers.

Those that have roots and flowers.

Those that crawl and flutter.

Get to know other humans who harvest.

There is so much to observe, so much to love.

Invite. Involve. Include.