

CAREER CORNER



**Cheryl Goar - Executive Director
Arizona Nursery Association**

I manage a non-profit trade association representing the wholesale and retail nursery industry in Arizona. That includes growers of trees, ornamental shrubs, and cacti! I am responsible for marketing, education, lobbying and representing Arizona's nursery farmers on issues that affect their ability to do business. I love what I do because it allows me to be involved in agriculture, promotion, and government relations at the same time! One day I might be at the capitol and on another I could be planning an educational conference or visiting a plant nursery to see new technology in action. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Communication, a Certificate in Non-Profit Management, a Master's Degree in Agribusiness, and a Certified Association Executive designation.

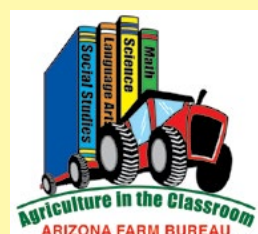
**Ashley Mortimer - Marketing Director
Mortimer Family Farms**

Every day I get to share what I love with others! I work as the Marketing Director for my family's farm. My job is to tell everyone what we do on the farm and share news about the events and festivals we put on! That means I get to work with social media, newspapers, TV stations, radio stations, and even write articles about life on the farm and upcoming festivals. My position was developed when my family saw a need to let people know what we do on the farm. It's exciting to me to see the joy that comes from people coming with their families to our farm and learning what a farmer does every day! I also love being able to think creatively about sharing our message. To serve in my role, I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Communications and Leadership at the University of Arizona.



**Scotty Nickerson - Farm Family Partner
Nickerson Family Farms, Yuma, AZ**

What I love most about farming is that I get to work outside directly with the plants. I feel a great sense of pride in working hard to produce food that ends up on the dinner plates of millions of people around the world. Looking forward, I am excited about the potential of agricultural technology to allow us to continue to produce enough food for the growing populations and it gives me tremendous satisfaction to know that I am building upon the hard work and tradition of many generations of American farmers who worked this ground before me. To help me bring new ideas to the farm, I attended the University of Arizona and received my Bachelor's Degree in Business Entrepreneurship with honors distinction from Barrett Honors College.



To learn more about Agriculture in the Classroom and the other FREE classroom resources visit us at www.azfb.org/aitc, or contact Katie Aikins at 480-635-3608.

Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
K.R1.1	1.RL.1	2.RL.1	3.RL.1	4.RL.1	5.RF.1
K.1S.C1.PO3	1.RL.2	2.RL.4	3.RL.4	4.RF.3	5.RF.3
K.1S.C2.PO2	1.RL.4	2.RL.5	3.RF.3	4.RF.4	5.RF.4
K.1S.C3.PO2	1.RF.3	2.RF.3	3.RF.4	S4.C3.PO1	
	S1.C1.PO2	2.RF.4	S3.C2.PO1	S4.C3.PO5	
	S1.C2.PO2				
	S1.C4.PO1				

**High School CTE Standards: Agribusiness Systems
Standard 12.0 Analyze Agricultural Literacy Topics**



WHAT MAKES SPECIALTY CROPS SPECIAL?



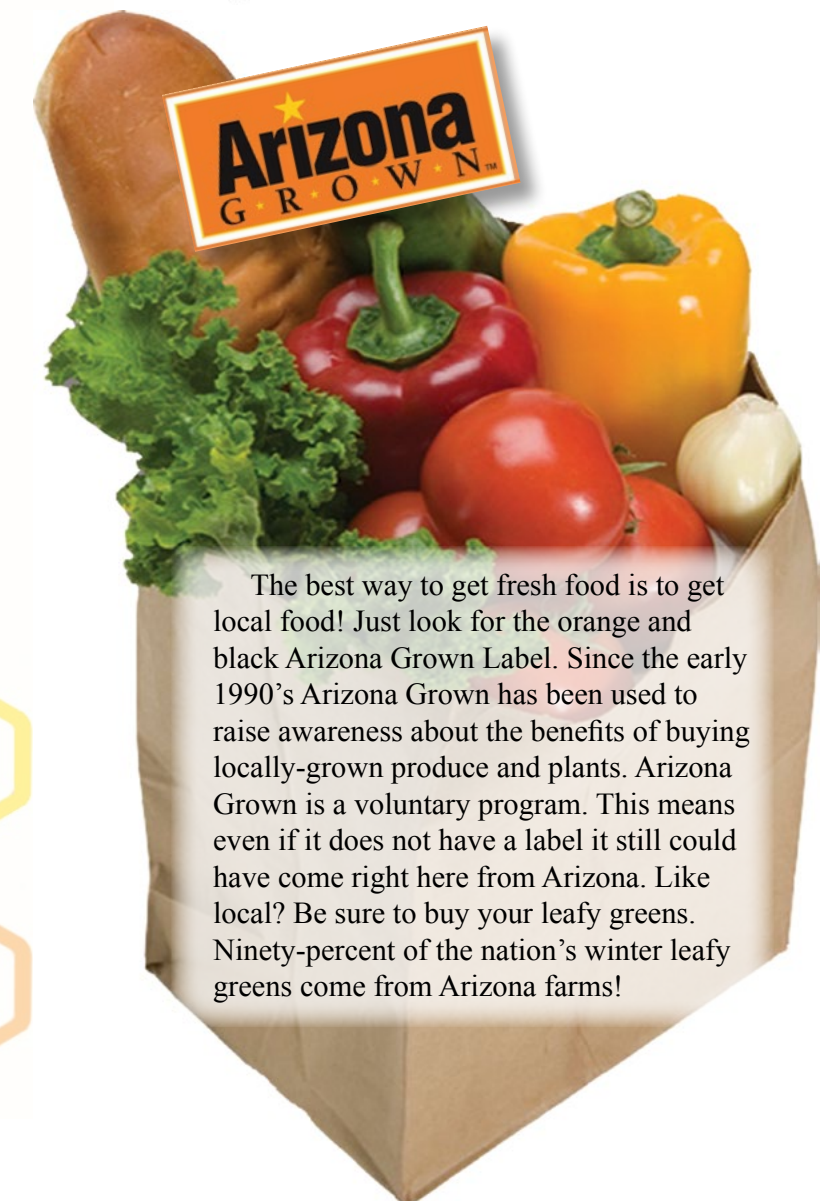
Specialty Crops are a big part of My Plate™. Hopefully they fill a large part of your plate too! Specialty Crops include a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops. All those spices and herbs used for cooking your favorite meals make the list too!

Why are they so special? Unlike crops such as corn, soybeans, cotton, and wheat that are grown for many different uses, Specialty Crops are grown and used by people for food, medicine, and decoration.

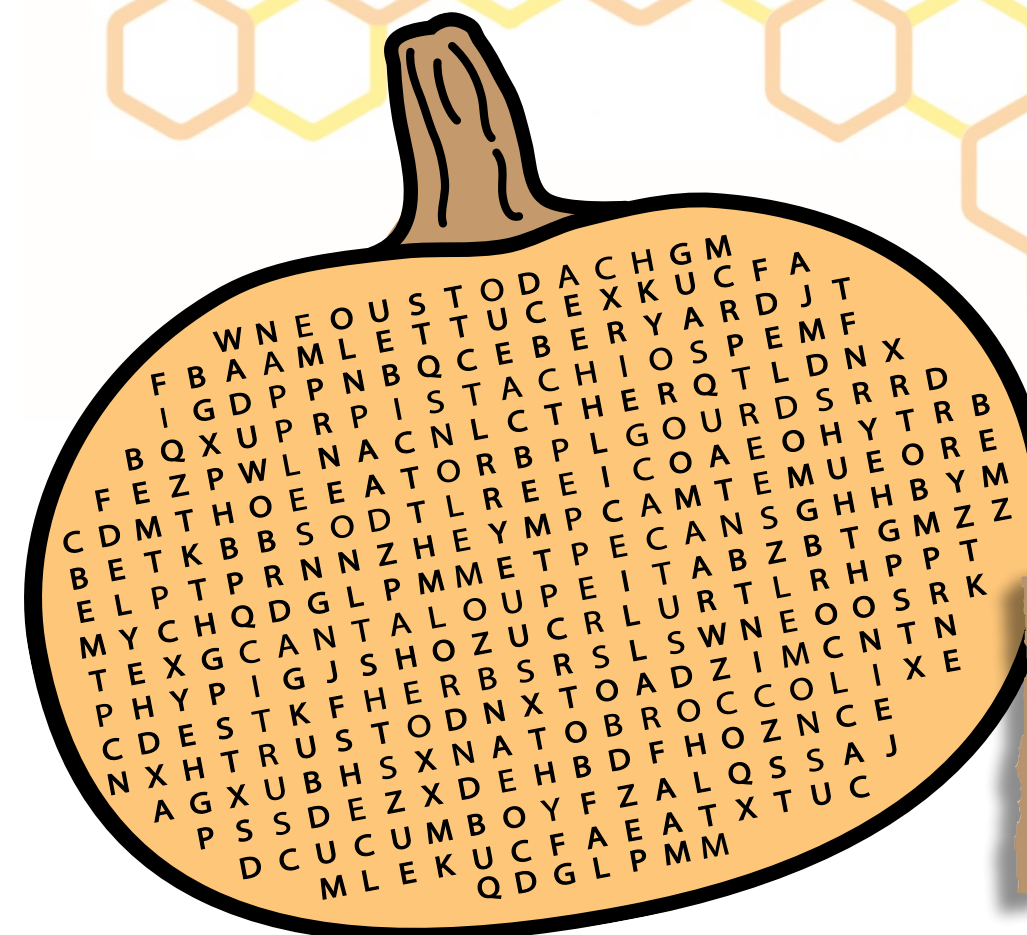
Get Truly Fresh Produce



Did you know that the pollen of many fruits and vegetables is too heavy or sticky to be carried by the wind? Because of this, bees play a very important role! They visit flowering plants to gather sweet nectar while pollen from each plant sticks to their fine body hairs. A worker bee may visit as many as 2,000 flowers a day. This makes bees excellent pollinators! Bees pollinate 30% of food crops and 70% of all wild plants.



The best way to get fresh food is to get local food! Just look for the orange and black Arizona Grown Label. Since the early 1990's Arizona Grown has been used to raise awareness about the benefits of buying locally-grown produce and plants. Arizona Grown is a voluntary program. This means even if it does not have a label it still could have come right here from Arizona. Like local? Be sure to buy your leafy greens. Ninety-percent of the nation's winter leafy greens come from Arizona farms!



sod	apples	honey
peppers	rose	pecans
citrus	lemons	cactus
pistachios	herbs	cantaloupe
melons	trees	gourds
broccoli		

Go Nuts!



Tree nuts are a good source of protein, fiber, and fats. They contain many vitamins and minerals essential for healthy living. There are a variety of nuts grown throughout the World.

Arizona is most known for growing pecans and pistachios. The trees that produce these nuts are alternate bearing trees. This means that they will have a good crop one year and then a smaller crop the next.



Arizona's Green Valley Pecan Co. is the largest irrigated pecan orchard in the World!

Grafting

Many of the apple and citrus trees producing fruit today have been grafted. Grafting occurs when farmers insert a stem with leaf buds into the stock of another tree. Why do farmers do this? Grafting allows for different varieties of fruits to be attached to root stock that might be better suited for the soil or resisting insects or disease. Fruit from grafted trees is more uniform in size, quality, and variety. Grafting can also be used to produce seedless fruits like navel oranges.



The Juliet rose took 15 years and cost \$5 million to breed.

There are roses by many different names growing in Arizona. In fact, there are 50 varieties of red roses alone! Arizona farmers grow 75% of the nation's rose-bushes. An amazing feat since there are only 4 farms that grow them!

Ever eaten a cactus? Saguaro cactus fruit are used to make jelly, jam, candy, wines and more! Arizona farmers grow cactus for use in landscaping.



Insta Grassification

Laying sod is the fastest way to a beautiful green lawn. Arizona farmers grow turf grass for use in landscaping, ball fields, and golf courses.

Sink or Float?

Does an apple sink or float?
Sink ____ Float ____

Does an orange sink or float?
Sink ____ Float ____

Does a peeled orange sink or float?
Sink ____ Float ____

Try this with your teacher or another adult.

Were your guesses correct?



On a hot summer day, a slice of watermelon or cantaloupe can be the perfect snack. Arizona's sunny climate makes it a great place for growing melons. Arizona is the 2nd largest producer of cantaloupe in the United States!



Arizonans aren't the only ones who love pumpkins. Pumpkins are grown on every continent except Antarctica! Want to pick your own pumpkin? Arizona has numerous U-Pick Farms and Pumpkin Festivals across the state.

Strawberries are the first fruit to ripen in the spring. On average, we eat 3.5 pounds of strawberries each year.

Did you know tomatoes are grown both inside and outside? There are nearly 250 acres of greenhouse tomatoes in Arizona. Growing tomatoes indoors allows farmers to grow them year-round instead of in only one season.



Arizona is hot hot hot and so are its peppers! The world's largest chili pepper was grown in Pearce, Arizona by Ed Curry of Curry Seed and Chili Company. Curry also produces 90% of the green chili seeds found in the United States.



Mom always says to eat your veggies and there is a good reason for it! Most vegetables are low in fat and calories and have no cholesterol. They provide us with lots of nutrients like potassium, fiber, and vitamins. Arizona farmers want to make sure you are eating your vegetables so they produce a lot. In fact, Arizona ranks 2nd nationally in the production of cauliflower and broccoli. And the state that ranks #1, well they get most of their seeds from Arizona farmers.

What Can YOU Find?

With the help of a parent, look around your house and see what Specialty Crops you can find. Remember fruits, vegetables, herbs, spices, and nursery plants are all Specialty Crops! Can you find 3 in each location?

What Specialty Crops did you find in your refrigerator?

What Specialty Crops did you find in your cabinets?

What Specialty Crops did you find in your yard?

