



## **2017 Pitahaya/Dragon Fruit Production Tour**

San Diego County Farm Bureau  
1670 East Valley Parkway | Escondido, CA 92027  
Friday - August 25, 2017

### **Self Driven Tour-Volunteer Drivers Needed for Carpooling**

#### **Tour Itinerary & Tentative Agenda:**

- 7:00 am**      **Registration, Continental Breakfast, Welcome and Introductions** - Ramiro Lobo and Gary Tanizaki, UCCE San Diego
- 7:30 am**      **Depart for Heritage Ranch in Escondido, CA.** – Tour hosted by Burnet Wohlford and Adrian Olguin
- 9:30 am**      **Depart for Elk Creek Pitahaya Farm in Fallbrook, CA.** – Tour hosted by Linda Nickerson and Khash Sahebjamei
- 11:30 am**     **Depart for Wallace Ranch in Bonsall, CA.** – Tour hosted by Julio Robles, Farm Manager with Guest Speakers Ole Becker, UC Riverside Nematology Specialist and Gray Martin, Grower/Breeder
- 12:00 Noon**   **LUNCH & Pitahaya Fruit and Ice Cream Tasting**
- 12:30 am**     **All Things Dragon Fruit** – Gray Martin, Dragon Fruit Grower and Breeder
- 1:30 pm**      **Tour Pitahaya/Dragon Fruit Planting at Wallace Ranch**
- 3:30 pm**      **Depart Wallace Ranch for San Diego County Farm Bureau**
- 4:00 pm**      **Adjourn**

#### **Potential Topics to be Discussed/Highlighted During the Tour:**

- Overview of farming operations visited
- Variety selection, planting, trellis and growing systems (pots vs. soils, shade vs. full sun, etc.)
- Pitahaya or Dragon Fruit Irrigation and Water Quality Issues
- Pitahaya Orchard Establishment & Economics Considerations
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Pitahayas and other Specialty Crops
- Pitahaya Fertility Management & fertilizer practices
- Nematode Issues for Pitahaya Production
- Vertebrate Pest Management in Pitahaya Production
- Pitahaya/Dragon Fruit Tasting – You are welcome to bring/donate fruit for the tasting to get feedback about quality/taste from other growers (10 pieces of fruit required per entry)

**Register Online at:** <http://ucanr.edu/2017-pitahaya>

Questions: Contact Roland Hills - 858-822-7711 or Erin Spaniel - 858-822-7919



## **2017 Pitahaya/Dragon Fruit Festival/Field Day**

UC South Coast Research and Extension Center

7601 Irvine Boulevard | Irvine, CA 92618

Saturday - August 26, 2017

### **Tentative Agenda:**

- 6:30 am**      **Registration Opens**
- 7:30 am**      **Welcome & Overview of UC-SCREC – Darren Haver, Director UC South Coast REC**
- 7:45 am**      **Trams Depart for Field Tour – Session 1**
- 8:00 am**      **Stop # 1: Pitahaya Variety Trial & Germplasm Collection**  
**Stop # 2: Pitahaya Irrigation Trial**  
**Stop # 3: Conference Room/Breezeway-Moderated by Jose Aguiar, UCCE Advisor Riverside County**
- 9:00 am**      **Swap Tour Stops**
- 9:15 am**      **Repeat Tour Stops – Session 2**
- 10:15 am**     **Swap Tour Stops**
- 10:30 am**     **Repeat Tour Stops – Session 3 (if desired) or Return to Breezeway**
- 11:30 am**     **End Field Tour**
- 12:00 pm**     **LUNCH, Pitahaya Fruit & Ice Cream Tasting (Breezeway)**
- 1:30 pm**      **Pitahaya Cutting Exchange – Self Service based on cutting availability, you are welcome to bring and share cuttings with other participants**
- 3:00 pm**      **Adjourn**

### **Topics to be Discussed/Highlighted:**

- **Pitahaya/Dragon Fruit Varieties, Pollen Collection and Pollination Demonstration –** Ramiro Lobo & Tony Pacheco, UCCE San Diego
- **Weed Management, Spraying Equipment and Ergonomic Tools Demo –** Cheryl Wilen, UCCE IPM Area Advisor and Jan Gonzales, UCCE San Diego County
- **Nematode Issues in Pitahaya Production –** Ole Becker, UC Riverside Nematology Specialist
- **Pitahaya Trellis & Irrigation Trials, Irrigation Systems Design Considerations –** Gary Tanizaki, UCCE San Diego and Jose Fernandez de Soto, Director UC Hansen REC
- **Vertebrate Pest Management Strategies Demonstration -** Niamh Quinn, UCCE Advisor Orange/San Diego Counties
- **Growing Pitahayas in your Backyard –** Ed Valdivia, Grower/Pitahaya Breeder (Simi Valley) and Linda Nickerson, Ell Creek Grove Pitahaya Farm/Nursery (Fallbrook): Moderated by Jose Aguiar, UCCE Advisor Riverside County

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