



## HARRY & BECKY'S DESERT GARDEN

October 8, 2022 - near Ina & La Cholla



When Becky and I bought our house fourteen years ago, the only cactus were in the front yard. The back of the property had been scraped for parking. Thanks to the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society our home has taken on more of a desert feel.



We have tried to combine the best of a garden environment with the feel of the Sonoran Desert by using rescue plants and garden paths. We love the different textures and colors of prickly pear and use them throughout the property. When we purchased the property there was only one saguaro, an older one in the front yard. Now there are over twenty and we have new ones growing from seed. We love the pin cushions and hedge hogs for their delicate blooms, agaves add texture and Mexican fence posts and Ocotillo add height.



Each cactus contributes to the joy of walking in our back yard. Almost every day something is blooming. After a rain, the pin cushions pop and the ocotillo turn green and bloom. In the heat of summer the barrel cactus bloom when everything else is starting to wilt. The desert is magical.



Because I love to cook, I have tried to incorporate the desert flavors in many of my creations. I use Palo Verde beans and flowers, Barrel fruit, Cholla buds, Mesquite beans, Prickly Pear fruit and Prickly Pear paddles in many dishes. I love serving them to our out of town friends.



Our other big project has been water conservation. We have banked the yard to retain water and are in the process of creating channels to move that water to areas that have been planted. We also store 700 gallons of water that can be used for drip irrigation or to top off the pool.



We learn more about the desert every day and are excited to live in Tucson and be a part of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society.

