



Did you Know you can Grow...

# Brandon Merchant

- Arizona Native
- Owner of Southwest Victory Gardens
- Former Pima County Certified Master Gardener
- Former President of Tucson Organic Gardeners
- SmartScape Certified





[WWW.SOUTHWESTVICTORYGARDENS.COM/DOCUMENTS](http://WWW.SOUTHWESTVICTORYGARDENS.COM/DOCUMENTS)

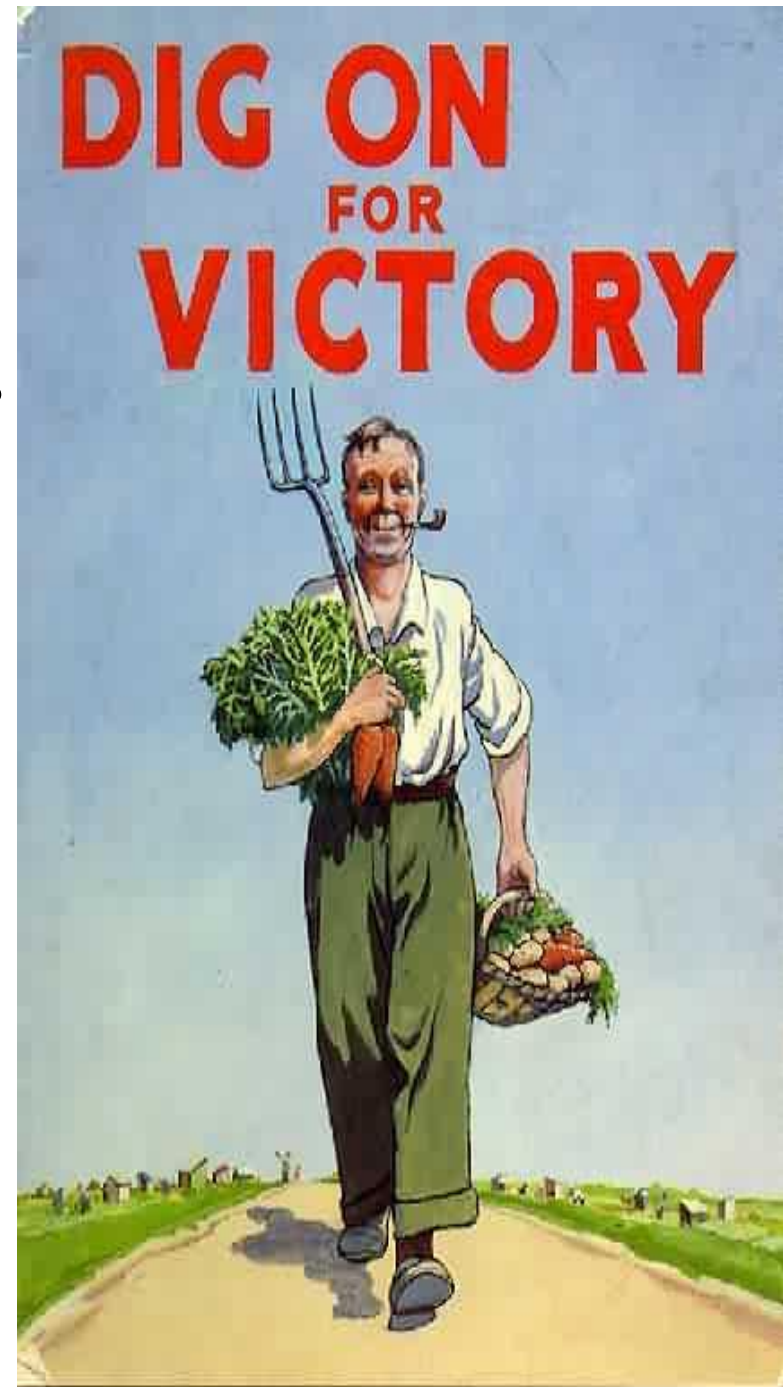
# UPCOMING EVENTS IN TUCSON

- DIY: Make your own Potting Mix – September 21<sup>st</sup> CFB
- Heirloom Seeds of Africa – September 30<sup>th</sup> Dunbar Pavillion
  - DIY: Make your own Fertilizers – October 5<sup>th</sup> CFB
- Vegetable Gardening for Beginners – October 7<sup>th</sup> at Dunbar
  - DIY: Make your own Worm Bin – November 2<sup>nd</sup> CFB
- DIY: Protect your Plants from Frost – November 16<sup>th</sup> CFB

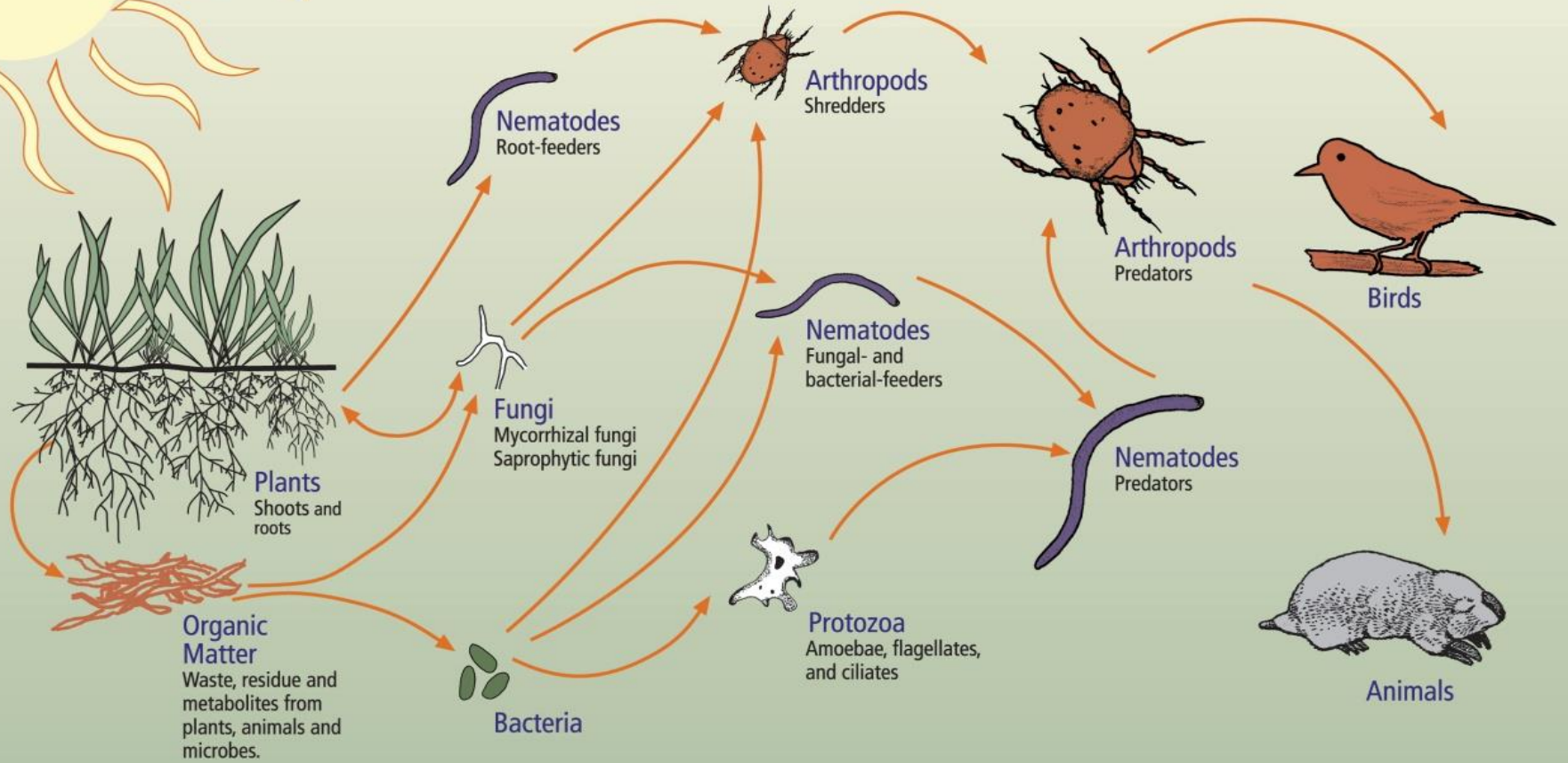
[www.facebook.com/southwestvictorygardens/events](http://www.facebook.com/southwestvictorygardens/events)

# OUR PHILOSOPHY

- Healthy soil encourages healthy plants
- Healthy plants care for themselves
- Limit external inputs
- Reduce water usage
- Garden with our climate not against it
- Encourage a natural ecosystem
- Build community through gardening



# The Soil Food Web



**First trophic level:**  
Photosynthesizers

**Second trophic level:**  
Decomposers  
Mutualists  
Pathogens, Parasites  
Root-feeders

**Third trophic level:**  
Shredders  
Predators  
Grazers

**Fourth trophic level:**  
Higher level predators

**Fifth and higher trophic levels:**  
Higher level predators





Tucson  
Organic  
Gardeners

soiling our hands since 1971

# TUCSON ORGANIC GARDENERS PLANTING GUIDE

## FOR TUCSON AND THE LOW DESERT

**Jan 1 – Feb 15**

**FROM SEED**

Arugula, Broccoli, Cabbage, Chinese Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Cilantro, Collards, Dill, Fennel, Kale, Lettuce, Mustard Parsley, Bulb Onion (See Graphic), Potato

**FROM SEEDLING TRANSPLANT**

Artichoke, Broccoli, Cabbage, Chinese Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Cilantro, Collards, Dill, Fennel, Kale, Lettuce, Mustard, Parsley, Spinach, Swiss Chard.

**April 15 – May 31**

**FROM SEED**

Amaranth, Basil, Cantaloupe, Cowpea, Cucumber, Malabar Spinach, Melon, Okra, Sorghum, Sweet Potato Slips, Summer Squash, Watermelon

**FROM SEEDLING TRANSPLANT**

Basil, Eggplant, Pepper

**July 15 – August 31**

**FROM SEED**

Bush Beans, Pole Beans, Corn (all types), Cowpea, Cucumber, Cantaloupe, T'itois Onion (See Graphic), Pumpkin, Sorghum Summer and Winter Squash

**FROM SEEDLING TRANSPLANT**

Tomato (July 15 - Aug 15)

**Oct 15 - Nov 15**

**FROM SEED**

Beets, Carrots, Garlic, Greens, Lettuce, Mustard, Pea, Radish, Turnip, Wheat (December – January)

**FROM SEEDLING TRANSPLANT**

Broccoli, Cabbage, Chinese Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Cilantro, Collards, Dill, Fennel, Kale, Lettuce, Mustard Parsley, Spinach, Swiss Chard

LATE WINTER

SPRING

LATE SPRING

EARLY SUMMER

MONSOON

EARLY FALL

LATE FALL

**March 1 – April 15**

**FROM SEED**

Amaranth, Basil, Bush Bean, Corn (Sweet), Cucumber, Jerusalem Artichoke, Malabar Spinach, Melon, Pumpkin, Sesame, Sorghum, Summer and Winter Squash, Tobacco, Watermelon

**FROM SEEDLING TRANSPLANT**

Basil, Eggplant, Pepper, Tomato, Tomatillo

**June 1 – June 15**

**FROM SEED**

Pole Beans, Cantaloupe, Cowpea, Melon, Sweet Potato Slips

**Sep 1 – Oct 15**

**FROM SEED**

Arugula, Beet, Bok Choy, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrot, Cauliflower, Celery, Chia, Chicory, Chinese Cabbage, Cilantro, Collards, Escarole, Fava, Garbanzo, Greens, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leek, Lentils, Lettuce, Maché, Mustard, Onion (See Graphic), Parsley, Parsnip, Pea, Radish, Rape, Rutabaga, Turnip, Spinach, Swiss Chard

**FROM SEEDLING TRANSPLANT**

Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Chinese Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Cilantro, Dill, Fennel, Kale, Lettuce, Mustard, Parsley, Spinach, Swiss Chard

### ONIONS



**"SHORT-DAY" BULB ONION SETS**

January 1 – February 15

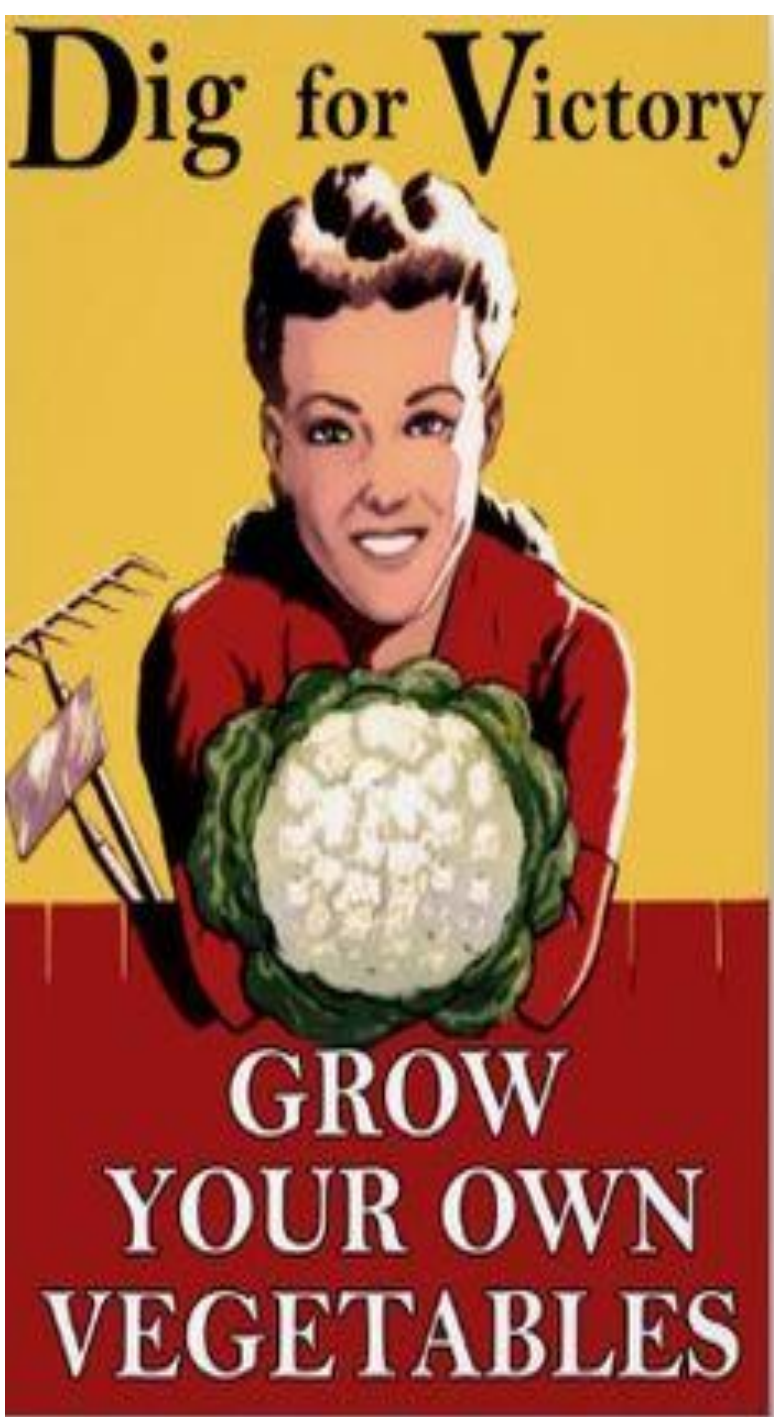
**TOHONO O'ODHAM I'TOIS MULTIPLIER ONION**

July 15 – February 1

**GREEN BUNCHING/SCALLION**

August 15 – February 1





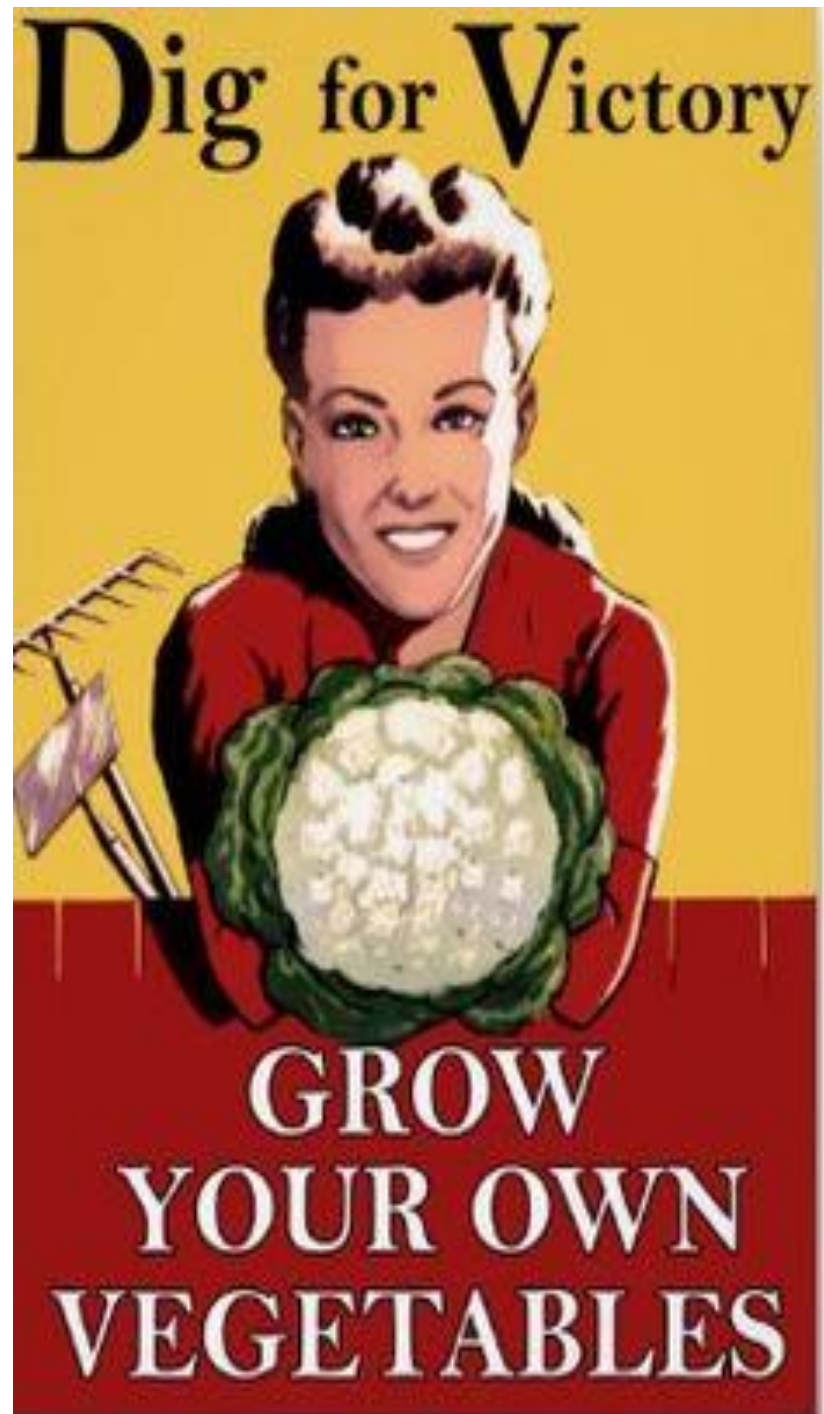
## SPRING/SUMMER PLANTING SCHEDULE

- **Crops that we Harvest for Fruit**
  - Early Spring: Jan – Mid-Feb
  - Spring: Mid Feb – Mar
  - Late Spring: April – Mid-May
  - Summer: Mid-May – June
  - Monsoon: July - Aug



# FALL/WINTER PLANTING SCHEDULE

- **Leafy Greens and Root Crops**
  - Early Fall: Sep – Oct
  - Mid Fall: Oct – Mid-Nov
  - Late Fall: Mid Nov – Jan
  - Winter: Jan – Feb



# Summer Fruit

- Chichiquelites
- Chiltepin
- Grapes
- Lima Beans





# Chiltepin - *Capsicum annuum* var. *glabriusculum*

- Native
- Slow to Start
- Very Hot
- Good Landscape Plant



# Grape – *Vitis vinifera*



- Native Varieties
- European Varieties
- Easy to Propagate
- Pest Heavy



# Summer Grains and Pseudograins



- Amaranth\*
- Buckwheat
- Millet
- Peanut
- Safflower
- Sesame
- Sorghum
- Teff

# Buckwheat – *Fagopyrum esculentum*

- Insect Attractor
- Cover Crop
- Fast Growing





# Safflower - *Carthamus tinctorius*



- Saffron Substitute
- Great for Birds
- Harvest Carefully

# Sesame - *Sesamum indicum*

- Heavy Seed Producer
- Heat Tolerant
- Tall Growing





# Sorghum



- Bird Attractor
- Tall Growing
- Drought Tolerant
- Sugar Substitute
- Cover Crop



# Summer Greens

- Amaranth\*
- Malabar Spinach
- Molokhia
- Sweet Potato
- Strawberry Spinach
- Verdolagas





# Sweet Potato - *Ipomoea batatas*

- Spreading Vine
- Long Season
- Start from Slips





# Verdolagas - *Portulaca oleracea*



- Common “Weed”
- Yellow Flowers
- Excellent Flavor
- Try Pickling



# Summer Herbs



- Holy Basil
- l'itois Onion



# I'tois Onions

- Naturalized Non-Native
- Ark of Taste
- Clumping Onion
- Use Greens or Bulbs





# Winter Beans

- Chickpea or Garbanzo
- Fava



# Fava Beans – *Vicia faba*



- Large Plants
- Long Season
- Plant Heavily



# Winter Grains and Pseudograins



- Oats
- Rapeseed
- Wheat



# Rapeseed – *Brassica napus*

- Cabbage Relative
- Great Biomass
- Bird and Pollinator Attractor
- Forage Plant





# Wheat - *Triticum aestivum*



- Grows Well
- Needs Lots of Space
- Great for Cover



# Winter Greens

- Black Mustard
- Celtuce
- Chicory, Endive, Escarole
- Collard Trees
- Dandelion
- Ethiopian Spinach
- Mache
- Asian Greens





# Tree Collard – *Brassica sp.*

- Perennial
- Grows from Cuttings
- Turns Purple in Cold Weather
- Roots from Stem





# Ethiopian Spinach – *Brassica carinata*



- Texsel
  - Fast Growing
  - Edible Leaves
- Similar to Mustard
- Pollinator and Bird Attractor



# Herbs and Spices



- Chia
- Cuban Oregano
- Ginger
- Horse Radish
- Mexican Oregano
- Papaloquelite
- Turmeric



# Ginger - *Zingiber officinale*

- Grow from Sprouted Rhizomes
- Water Heavy
- Frost Sensitive





# Mexican Oregano - *Lippia graveolens*



- Native Plant
- Cold Sensitive
- Perennial

# Papaloquelite - *Porophyllum ruderale*

- Complex Flavor
- Warm Season Annual
- Great in Mexican Cuisine





# RESOURCES

- Tanks Green Stuff
- EcoGro
- Reading List
- Gardening Clubs
- Local Businesses
- Friends and Family





Thank you!

[www.southwestvictorygardens.com/Documents](http://www.southwestvictorygardens.com/Documents)

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