

Tohono Chul Park Greenhouse
7366 North Paseo del Norte – Tucson, AZ 85704 – 520-544-7922
www.tohonochulpark.org

Tohono O’odham Dipper Gourds

Planting Instructions

Plant seeds in the spring after danger of frost is past. Pre-soak seeds and then sow 1" deep. Allow several feet of growing room around each plant to accommodate the long vines. Provide a trellis, wall or tree for the vines to climb. Water heavily during long, summer, growing season. All of the vines, especially the lead runner, should be pruned to 8' – 10' to encourage branching and growth of female flowers.

Keep grounds suspended on a trellis or frame to preserve the shape and prevent rot. Gourds should be allowed to mature on the vine until the stems are brown and the fruits are lightweight (or until there is danger of frost). Place harvested gourds in cool, dry place, such as a garage, to complete the drying process which can take up to several months. Turn them weekly to speed the process. When dry, the gourds will be beige in color, very light, and the seeds will rattle inside when shaken. To prevent mold while the gourds are drying, wipe gourds with a solution of 2T bleach/gallon water periodically.



These dipper gourds were grown in the Park’s Ethnobotanical Garden