Mojave Experimental Growers

Unincorporated Non-Profit Association

Statement of Purpose & Activity

What We Do

Mojave Experimental is exactly what it sounds like: an experimental living garden where we try non-traditional grow methods, see what actually works, and then share the results openly so anyone can use them. We run real experiments in real desert conditions, tents, hydro setups, raised beds, outdoor containers that endure 115°F heat, and we document everything along the way. If a method works, great. If it fails, also great. Either way, the information goes back into the open-source pile so the next person doesn't have to guess. That's it. That's the whole thing.

What We Are Not

Mojave Experimental isn't a funded project, a nonprofit with a donation link, or anything backed by grants or sponsors. Everything here is self-funded and driven by curiosity, not money. The only thing we trade in is knowledge. If something we learn helps someone else grow a crop they didn't think was possible, that's the whole point.

We're also not a community farm, a CSA, or a food-production operation. Nothing here is grown at scale or sold to the public. This is small-batch experimentation with crops that aren't native to the Mojave, tested in controlled environments and outdoor conditions to see what's actually possible. If you're looking for produce, this isn't the place. If you're looking for honest experiments and open-source methods, you're in the right spot.

How It Works

Mojave Experimental runs on a simple process: get curious about something, figure out how to recreate the conditions it needs, build the setup, and see what happens. Sometimes that means studying Alpine mountain soils and asking, "Okay, what does a strawberry actually want under its feet?" Other times it means reverse-engineering the mineral profile of volcanic loam for San Marzanos, or building a Midwestern-style structure for corn that has never seen a desert sunrise.

Every experiment starts as a question. From there, we research the native environment, pick the closest practical materials, make a few strategic purchases, and build a controlled setup that mimics the plant's home turf as closely as possible. Then we run the trial, track the data, adjust when needed, and eventually, if everything goes right, we eat a berry, a pepper, or whatever survived the Mojave proving grounds.

It's not magic. It's not academic theory. It's just curiosity, structure, and a willingness to test non-traditional methods until something works well enough to share.

Also, a lot of the soil and climate research happens through daily collaboration with Microsoft Copilot. Since we can't memorize the entire world's geology and microclimates, AI is used to get the info instantly, which lets us focus on the actual hands-on work: mixing substrates, building environments, and running the trials. This speeds up the part that would take us weeks or months to research. The ideas and experiments are original. AI helps us get to the right questions faster.

The Why

Mojave Experimental exists because growing food is universal. Every culture gardens. Every family has a story about a tomato plant, a citrus tree, a pepper that surprised them, or a crop that absolutely refused to cooperate. Gardening is a multi-billion-dollar industry, and people spend their hard-earned money on soil, tools, amendments, tents, lights, and equipment, sometimes often without the knowledge to know what they actually need. We're here to help change that.

Our purpose is simple: if you're going to invest in growing something, you should have the information to do it well. Not overbuying. Not underbuying. Not guessing. Not getting lost in marketing claims. Just clear, practical knowledge based on real experiments in real conditions.

We test non-traditional methods, unusual crops, and controlled environments so that anyone, whether they're growing on a balcony, in a backyard, or in a desert can make informed decisions.

That's the why.

We also believe that real learning comes from seeing both the wins and the failures. Every gardener has felt that gut-punch moment when a plant refuses to cooperate, and we're no different. Some experiments thrive, some crash and burn, but all of them teach us something. We document the good, the bad, and

the “well, that was unexpected” because honest results help everyone make better decisions.

Also, Mojave Experimental doesn’t sponsor brands, accept products, or partner with companies. We have zero affiliation with any tool, soil, nutrient, or equipment manufacturer. But we do list every single thing we use, including the brand, because transparency matters. What people pay depends on where they live; worm castings cost more in California than in the Midwest, and that’s just how supply chains work. Our job isn’t to tell you what to buy, it’s to show you what we used so you can make informed choices.

And when a seed supplier consistently delivers viable, healthy seeds? We’ll absolutely give them a shoutout. Not because we’re paid to, but because good work deserves recognition. We don’t slam anyone; we highlight the growers, suppliers, and makers who get it right.

That’s part of the why, too:

Detailed information helps people grow better food, spend smarter, and feel more confident in their own experiments.

This is why we exist.

Yours Truly,

The Mojave Experimental Growers