

## **Siesta del Sol**

7340 N Cortaro Rd.

Tucson AZ

**Topics: Passive water harvesting; Agaves, Agaves, Agaves!**

### **Garden History**

My husband and I have lived at this address since 1989.

When we moved in the entire back yard was just turf. After struggling with watering the grass and trying to keep it green, we decided to completely redo the whole thing. All the turf was removed and a drip irrigation system put in place and then I started planting. So our irrigation system is very old and unfortunately is not geared toward hydrozones.

Our soil here is very rocky and a layer of caliche is present almost everywhere making planting difficult. The garden has changed over the years and now is geared toward pollinators. Many of the plants are nectar and host plants for butterflies and nectar plants for hummingbirds.

I have soaker hoses in the flower beds which I really love. The rest of the yard is watered about every 2 weeks with a sprinkler, which I know is not the best method, but works in this case until we can have the irrigation system updated.

To the south is an area where the dogs roam around. About 3 years ago we had the area redone to create swales and berms for water harvesting. All the roof water is diverted along the gutters to the swales when it rains. It's so exciting to see the water collecting in the swales during the monsoon storms! We also have grey water harvesting in this area which waters several of the trees.

To the north is another area where we just recently changed the terrain to create another water harvesting area. The area by the garage was also contoured for water harvesting. The front circle was completely redone except for some of the old growth plants like the large ocotillo and the Foothills Palo Verde.

I have many container plants on the patio which I enjoy watering by hand.

### **Garden Basics**

**Watering:** Soaker hoses for flower beds, increased water harvesting and grey water, old drip irrigation system, some hand watering.

**Fertilizer:** I use 10-10-10 fertilizer for the pots and flower beds, but don't fertilize the native plants that are in the ground.

**Pest Control:** For agave bugs, I use insecticidal soap for a few, and pyrethrin if they are getting out of hand.

**Garden Philosophy:** A garden should bring joy and comfort to the gardener and provide food and shelter for pollinators. Nothing pleases me more than going into the garden and having butterflies, bees and hummingbirds flying around and enjoying my plants. If they nest in my garden that is even more special.