

Moringa Co-op: *the tree that feeds, fuels & cleans the water.*



THE IDEA

Plant moringa — possibly the most useful single plant on earth — by the acre on **irrigated land between Imperial Dam and Yuma**, and work it as a **cooperative**: members co-own the land and share the food, oil, feed, fuel savings and income. Start with one proven acre, lease 5–20, then build toward 100.

WHAT ONE TREE GIVES

Leaves — ~25% protein (dry); vitamins A & C, calcium, iron. Re-cut every 6–8 weeks.

Seeds — 30–40% oil (“ben oil”), prized in skin care.

Flowers — edible; bee forage for honey.

Pods — “drumsticks,” cooked like green beans.

Seed cake — clears muddy water; fertilizer.

Trimmings — mulch, compost, goat & chicken feed, biochar.

Don't eat the roots or root bark — toxic in quantity. Moringa is food, not medicine.

WHY HERE

Moringa loves 77–95°F, handles 110°F+, and dies in hard frost. The low desert has the heat, almost no frost, a near year-round season (so trees actually set seed), world-class sun for solar, Colorado River irrigation districts — and thousands of winter residents at the LTVAs as crew and customers. **The catch is water:** ~3 in. of rain a year, so land must come with irrigation rights or a legal well.

THE HONEST NUMBERS

\$15–30 / lb	Moringa leaf powder, retail. Hundreds of lb/yr from ¼ acre of leaf beds with good water. <i>This is the business.</i>
15–30 gal / yr	Ben oil from a mature ½-acre orchard — about one truck tank. Worth \$100+/gal sold; sell it, don't burn it.
\$6.53 / gal	U.S. diesel (week ending September 21, 2026); CA \$8.25. Restaurant waste oil → biodiesel for tractors & generators.
\$12.5k–54.5k / ac	Irrigated farmland nearby (100 acres ≈ \$1M+). Dry land ~\$2.3k/ac, but no water.

HELP THAT EXISTS

USDA **EQIP** (drip irrigation), **REAP** (solar), **Value-Added Producer Grants** (powder & oil), **FSA beginning-farmer loans**, Rural Business Development Grants; BLM **R&PP** land for nonprofits; land trusts and tribal partnerships (Quechan, Cocopah).

NEXT 12 MONTHS

Winter 2026: scout land, call water districts, BLM, USDA & UA Extension, trial seedlings. **Spring 2027:** first acre, solar, drip, plant out. **Summer–fall 2027:** first leaf harvests, drying & grinding, first pods, first sales. **2028:** form the co-op, grants, lease 5–20 acres.



“BEN OLÉIFÈRE,” DESCOURTILZ, 1820S • PUBLIC DOMAIN

EVERY DETAIL,
SOURCES & PHOTOS



moringacoop.org

Want in? Growers, landowners, restaurants with fryer oil, grant writers, builders, cooks, beekeepers. Find Jamie at Imperial Dam LTVA.