

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.



May 2022

**Professor Robert Morris, Local expert in desert and tropical horticulture.
Nominator: Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc.**

Emeritus Professor, Robert Morris has 50 years of experience in arid, desert, and tropical irrigated horticulture. He has worked all over the world including Africa, the Middle East, Eurasia, and Southeast Asia to develop sustainable agriculture techniques. He has spent several months and up to a year on location working with farmers on soil testing, farm design, crop and post-harvest production, and marketing.

Bob writes a weekly column for the Las Vegas Review Journal responding to questions and photos on a wide variety of horticulture related issues suited to the desert climate. He has a blog named “Extreme Horticulture in the Desert” which gets 30-40 thousand views per month.

Considered a local expert on a wide variety of horticulture, Bob has worked for many years with the Master Gardener program in Southern Nevada and Arizona, teaching landscape design, irrigation methods, best planting practices, proper care of fruit trees, and integrated pest management. Bob helped the Master Gardeners start a wine production program and manage their research orchard. Always willing to share his knowledge he often provides programs for local garden clubs as well.

Several years ago, Bob was approached to create and develop an urban temperate fruit orchard on 8 acres of land once used for grazing horses near downtown Las Vegas. He designed the layout of the orchard and the specified irrigation system. The project now boasts 400 hundred fruit tree varieties, and recently, date palms, grapes, beehives, and vegetables. All of the produce is donated to a local food bank. Bob continues as the technical adviser on this project and gives seminars on planting and the proper technique for pruning fruit trees, which is critical in the desert climate.

Bob considers himself retired but is as busy as ever doing what he loves to do, making a difference in the world by helping people learn how to grow food and be gentle with the earth.



Robert Morris

AOE 2022 winner, Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc.