

#FridaysOnTheFarm

A Sailor and His Dragon Fruit

This week we travel to Fallbrook, California, where Leonardo Aguila grows avocados, dragon fruit, and cherimoyas across his six-acre farm. Before becoming a farmer, Leonardo served in the U.S. Navy for 17 years.

Leonardo has now diversified his crops with dragon fruit and cherimoyas. He propagates the plants himself, producing three varieties of dragon fruit: American Beauty (red flesh), Delight (white flesh), and Physical Graffiti (light purple flesh). In the future, he plans to begin selling these potted plants to help



him cover operating costs while the orchard matures and recovers from a prolonged drought.

Leonardo remains committed to learning more and more about farming. Recently, he planted 100 more avocado trees and enjoyed his daily work of watering the potted dragon fruit, removing hungry snails, building more trellis, and various other projects. He is also working to establish local Asian markets for commercial customers.

“The best advice I can give to other farmers is to ‘get your hands dirty,’” Leonardo said. “Don’t depend on one crop. Try to diversify as much as possible. And, conserve resources as much as possible as well.”

References

<https://www.farmers.gov/blog/sailor-and-his-dragon-fruit>