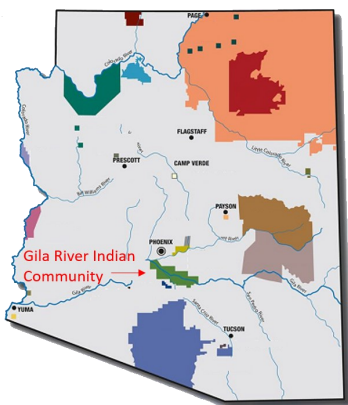




Tribal Pesticide Program Council

Spring 2021

Gila River Indian Community's Pesticide Control Program Turns 40!



The Gila River Indian Community's Pesticide Control Office runs one of the oldest tribal pesticide control programs in the nation, created in 1981 when the Community adopted its first pesticide code. On the 40th anniversary of its founding we wanted to take a look back at the history of the program, and highlight some of the work the office has done and continues to do to support the Community's significant agricultural industry and keep their people safe.

Located along the broad floodplain of the Gila River in central Arizona, immediately south of the modern-day Phoenix metropolitan area, the Community supports a robust agricultural industry with a long history of using the waters of this desert river wisely to grow crops and thrive in an otherwise harsh, seemingly inhospitable environment. The ancestors of today's Community members, known as the Huhugam people, were managing and farming the land around the Gila and nearby Salt Rivers over 2,000 years ago, creating a huge, intricate network of canals and irrigation ditches (with about 500 miles of canals averaging 10 feet deep and 30 feet wide) that they used to water thousands of acres of farmland. On these irrigated fields they grew cotton, corn, melons, beans, fruits, tobacco, and other crops.

Agriculture is still a significant aspect of the Community's economic and cultural identity today, with roughly 10% of the land area under cultivation (see next page for a map). Cotton continues to be a big crop, along with other edible and forage crops such as wheat, millet, alfalfa, barley, melons, pistachios, olives, citrus, and vegetables. Recognizing the need to manage pesticide use to reduce risks to pesticide workers, handlers, applicators, as well as the Community's residents, employees, and visitors, the Community adopted a pesticide code in 1981 that was drafted by Charles Moses, who went on to work for and retire from the Nevada Department of Agriculture. The code expressed the intent of the Community "to provide for the safe production, processing, transportation, handling, storage, application and other use of pesticides within the Community," and established policies and procedures to achieve this goal.

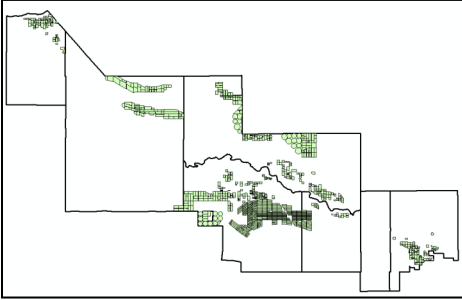
A new code was put in place in 1995, replacing the 1981 code and moving the Office into the newly created Department of Environmental Quality. The new code was amended in 1996, adding regulations focusing primarily on aerial and non-agricultural applications. In 2014 the code was once again replaced with a new, significantly more comprehensive



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GRIC Pesticide Control Program Turns 40! (continued)



Modern agricultural fields on the Gila River Indian Reservation.

code. While the earlier codes had incorporated parts of the Arizona Revised Statutes by reference, the 2014 re-write removed those dependencies, although many of the new provisions were still modeled on the state statutes. The Program's current FY21 project seeks to present to the Community yet another complete rewrite of the pesticide code, one which streamlines requirements and further expands on the Community's sovereignty to regulate the use of pesticides within tribal lands. Over the years there have also been various individual ordinances created to regulate beekeeping and establish practices to control specific cotton pests.

The Gila River Indian Community has also entered into a program and enforcement cooperative agreement with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), allowing it to manage the Community's own pesticide program and enforce their codes under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The Pesticide Control Office is dedicated to ensuring that all pesticide regulated activities, including the production, transportation, storage, sale, use, and disposal of pesticides, pesticide devices, and containers are conducted according to tribal and federal law. To accomplish these goals, the Community's comprehensive programs include provisions for:

- **Permitting** of pest management businesses, growers and seed treaters;
- **Registration** of sellers, producers and pest control advisors;
- **Certification** of applicators applying general use and restricted use pesticides;
- **Training** of Community Applicators in pesticide safety, and agricultural workers and handlers in Worker Protection Standards;
- **Outreach** to Community members on pesticide-related issues;
- **Compliance assistance** for the regulated population; and
- **Enforcement** of Tribal and Federal pesticide law through compliance inspections based upon a neutral inspection scheme.

The Pesticide Control Office collaborates with various regional and national pesticide-related organizations such as the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA), the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO), the Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative (PERC), and the Certification and Training Assessment Group (CTAG); and has worked with EPA to test and develop new solutions for compliance and enforcement recordkeeping and data entry. They also maintain a thorough, well-designed website with forms, maps, and information for farmers and others using pesticides in the Community, and links to numerous resources of interest to anyone wanting to learn more about pests and pest control, pollinators, and related issues.



Cotton boll.

To learn more about the Gila River Indian Community's Pesticide Control Office, and their 40-year history of managing pesticide use to support farmers while protecting their Community and the environment, visit <http://www.gricdeq.org/pesticide-control-office>, or contact Environmental Program Manager Daniel Hoyt at daniel.hoyt@gric.nsn.us.

News Bites

A common soil pesticide cut wild bee reproduction by 89% – here's why scientists are worried

When you think of bees, a hive humming with activity probably comes to mind. But most of the world's 20,000 bee species don't call a hive home. These wild species lead solitary lives instead, and around 70% of them build nests underground where they raise their offspring on the nectar they gather from flowers. Scientists in Ontario, Canada found that the use of imidacloprid, a common neonicotinoid soil pesticide, dramatically reduced nest building activity, pollen



Native bumblebee.

harvesting, and reproduction in hoary squash bees, a ground-nesting species found on farmland throughout North America. This could leave both the bees and the crops they pollinate (pumpkins, squashes, and gourds) in trouble. For more information check out the complete article [here](#).

Walmart announces industry-leading policy to protect pollinators from pesticides

Walmart recently announced a far-reaching pollinator health policy to address the role of pesticides in pollinator decline. The new policy will require all suppliers of fresh produce and flowers to Walmart U.S. to adopt Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices by 2025. What's more, compliance must be verified by a third-party certifier, chosen from a list of certifications shown to have meaningful IPM criteria by the IPM Institute of North America. Given that Walmart is the largest food retailer in the country, the new policy could drive major changes in way pesticides are used (or not used) in the growing of food crops across the United States and beyond. For more information see the article [here](#).

Updates and Announcements

Conferences:

National Tribal Forum on Air Quality

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals presents its annual National Tribal Forum on Air Quality May 17-21. For more information on the virtual event please visit http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr_ntf.

North American Invasive Species Forum

Hosted by the Canadian Council on Invasive Species, the 2021 North American Invasive Species Forum will be held May 18-20. The conference will be held virtually, and registration closes May 17. For more information visit <https://pheedloop.com/northamericaninvasives2021/site/home/>

Tribal Lands and Environment Forum : A Virtual Gathering

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals will be hosting its annual Tribal Lands and Environment Forum virtually again this year from August 16-19. Proposals for presentations are being accepted through May 14, and can be submitted at <http://bit.ly/TLEFproposal>. For more information about the conference please visit http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr_tlef.

Meetings:

Region 5 Pre-SFIREG Meeting

A Pre-SFIREG meeting will be held for EPA Region 5 on May 5-6. The meeting will either be virtual or held in Chicago, IL.

PPDC Spring Meeting

The Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) will be holding their Spring meeting on May 12-13. For more information visit <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-advisory-committees-and-regulatory-partners/pesticide-program-dialogue-committee-ppdc>.

Full SFIREG Meeting

A full SFIREG meeting will be held June 7-8. Location, or whether it will be held in-person or virtual, are yet to be determined. For more information visit <https://aapco.org/2015/07/30/sfireg-3/>.

Updates and Announcements (*continued*)

Pesticide Applicator Certification and Training Meeting

Michigan State University will present the 2021 Pesticide Applicator Certification and Training Meeting from July 19-21 in Denver, CO. For more information please visit <https://npsec.us/pact2021>.

Trainings & Courses:

Pandemic Enforcement Issues PREP

The Pesticide Regulatory Education Program (PREP) Network will provide a virtual course on pesticide enforcement issues related to the pandemic May 17-21. For more information on the PREP Network visit <https://prep.ipm.ucanr.edu/>.

Nonagriculture/Public Health PREP

The PREP Network will provide a course on nonagricultural/public health pesticide issues July 12-15, either virtually or in Davis, CA. For more information on the PREP Network visit <https://prep.ipm.ucanr.edu/>.

Laboratory Issues PREP

The PREP Network will provide a course on laboratory issues August 23-26, either virtually or in Davis, CA. For more information on the PREP Network visit <https://prep.ipm.ucanr.edu/>.

Pesticides and Water Quality PREP

The PREP Network will provide a course on pesticides and water quality September 27-30, either virtually or in Davis, CA. For more information on the PREP Network visit <https://prep.ipm.ucanr.edu/>.

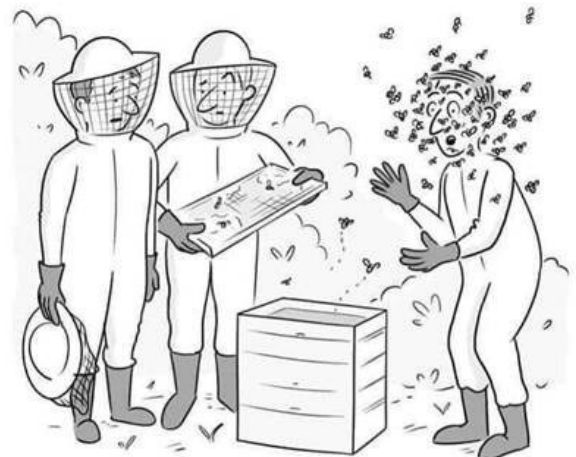
Basic Inspector PIRT

The Georgia Department of Agriculture will host a basic Pesticide Inspector Residential Training, tentatively scheduled for August 1-5 in Savannah, Georgia. For more information visit <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/pesticide-inspector-residential-training-pirt>.

Tribal Consultation and Public Comment Opportunities:

Tribal Consultation Opportunity: Assessing Chemical Contaminant Data for Fish Advisories (ends July 15, 2021)

EPA is currently undergoing tribal consultation on the updated and modernized *Guidance for Assessing Chemical Contaminant Data for Use in Fish Advisories, Volume 4, Risk Communication*. An informational webinar for Tribes was held on April 14, and the consultation period is open through July 15. For information please see the EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System website (<https://tcots.epa.gov/>), or contact Sharon Frey at frey.sharon@epa.gov or 202-566-1480.



"I told him as an expert in the field I strongly recommend wearing it, but he just kept bringing up his 'rights.'"

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At-Large Representative

The TPPC is a member-based organization with more than 66 members and 44 Tribes and tribal organizations as of September 2020, whose activities are funded by a cooperative agreement with the EPA. The Council serves as a tribal technical resource, and provides a forum for dialogue between Tribes and the EPA on program and policy development relating to pesticides issues and concerns. Assistance provided to Tribes includes support in building tribal pesticide programs and conducting pesticide education and training, and the preparation of resources for Tribes interested in specialized issues such as Integrated Pest Management and pollinators. Through its interaction with the EPA, the TPPC keeps Tribes informed of developments in the regulation of pesticides and pesticide use, and provides feedback to the EPA on such matters from a tribal perspective (though it is important to note that communication between the EPA and the TPPC does not substitute for direct government-to-government consultation).

For information about how to join the TPPC, contact Mark Daniels at mark.daniels@nau.edu or (928) 523-8897.

