

Gary Norton

My first exposure to agriculture was picking prunes and working on a neighbor's dairy when in high school in what is now referred to as Silicon Valley. Back then it was Santa Clara Valley and some of the best orchard and crop land in the world.

I am co-founder and President of Technical Engineering & Associates, Inc. (TEA), a consulting firm specializing in energy, environmental and water treatment projects. For a number of years I held a General Engineering Contractor's License and was involved in a wide range of construction projects including food processing and wineries throughout California. During that time, I also taught evening classes in Construction Project Management at a community college.

I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry/Molecular Biology and have been a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) since 1997.

I have been involved in working with pistachios in both Kern and Fresno Counties for over 10+ years and I am currently a Managing Partner with Sustainable Ag Farming Enterprises, LLC (SAFE) with 918 planted acres of pistachios we developed on the Westside in Fresno County.

The pistachio industry has made tremendous strides in cooperation with many well qualified scientists and technicians related to the farming and production of pistachios.

With current and future increased water limitations and restrictions, as well as nitrogen fertilizer limitations, I have become interested in the area of long-term root development/configuration of pistachio trees. This would involve developing efficient roots systems/configurations that consider soil types and textures, water and specific ion holding capacities and how best to achieve those.

I am looking forward to serving on the Administrative Committee for Pistachios. I am confident I can help bring added support to a farming industry of which I truly enjoy being a part.

Gary Norton
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