

VetiverSpain

Here are some examples of what we have learned about Vetiver after growing it in Sayalonga for over 5 years.

www.vetiverspain.com



Halting Erosion with Vetiver

- The reason we became involved with Vetiver was that soon after we purchased our home we had a horrible erosion problem on the newly created terraces. We wanted to find an inexpensive and ecologically friendly solution to our problem. We found Vetiver through the website of TVNI (The Vetiver Network International,) at www.vetiver.org. We bought our first plants from a supplier in Italy. After planting Vetiver the erosion stopped within the first few months. After about 3 years we started dividing plants and planting more and more to solve erosion issues on other areas of the property. Then neighbors wanted to buy Vetiver from us as they had the same problems we had with erosion. So VetiverSpain was born. In the next few photos we will show you the before and after results of using Vetiver.

This is the erosion situation when we purchased the house.



This is the erosion situation today.



Vetiver as a natural insecticide.

- We have had chickens, ducks, and rabbits and we have found that the animals love the Vetiver in their pens along with the normal hay that is used for the flooring. The rabbits actually eat it when dried and what we also discovered is that the animals no longer had the normal spring mites. We also use it around our organic vegetable gardens to keep away unwanted pests and it serves as a wind block in the winter. We have Vetiver around our picnic areas to keep away mosquitoes and other airborne pests.
- We have one client who purchased four hundred plants because he had an erosion problem around his newly leveled horse corral. The horses started eating it so he now cuts the Vetiver back every few months and feeds it to the horses. He now has a renewable source of nutritious horse feed that can last over 50 years. He has also noticed that he no longer has a worming problem with his horses. There is a lot of information on the Internet regarding this phenomenon.

Increases in various crop yields.

- We discovered an increase in crop yield by accident. Some of our worse performing olive and citrus trees became our best producing trees after we planted Vetiver around them to halt the erosion. Seeing this phenomena we started doing research. You can find this information on our website and on the website of www.vetiver.org for examples from all around the world on increased crop production up to 30-40% using Vetiver. On our website www.vetiverspain.com there are examples of the amount of flowers on our 2 year old avocado trees amongst the Vetiver versus no Vetiver and they are all on the same row of irrigation. Only the ones near Vetiver are producing fruit. The only difference we can see is the Vetiver. Now we plant them near all our trees. Seeing that they are non invasive and the roots grow straight down they do not interfere with the other plants or trees around them.
- About 1 year ago we did more terracing of our property and immediately planted Vetiver for two reasons. To stop any new erosion on the terraces and to let the Vetiver grow through the summer to become about two metres tall. It then can act as a natural wind break for fragile and young avocado trees. We planted avocado trees in the fall. We lost no trees over the winter with the high winter winds that we get coming through our valley from both the sea and the mountain ranges. Our elevation is 500 metres. Please visit our “Growth page.” www.vetiverspain/growth.html
- The end of last year we planted 125 avocado trees with borders of Vetiver to help to improve the ground quality, conserving water consumption as the roots actually store water and to act as a wind break. We had about 6 avocado trees before and the trees that are two years old have no fruit but the ones that we planted amongst rows of Vetiver already have fruit.

Vetiver used as a wind block.

- We use Vetiver everywhere on our property to protect our trees, plants, and vegetables from the high winds that we get due to where we are located and our elevation. You can see the examples on our “Growth” page on our website. www.vetiverspain.com/growth.html. In the winter Vetiver turns a nice purplish brown and we cut them back in the spring to bring out their vibrant green summer colors.
- The 2 photos below show Paco our gardener standing next to 2 metres tall, 5 month old Vetiver that we planted May 26, 2015 in preparation for the planting of 125 Avocado trees in the fall to provide the new young and fragile plants with protection from the winds.



Using Vetiver with Moringa Oleifera trees, also known as the miracle tree.

- These are some photos of the benefit of planting Vetiver amongst Moringa trees and other types of citrus, avocado, grapes, olives, etc. Notice the difference when Vetiver is planted near them. Both trees were planted at the same time.



Moringa tree without Vetiver which is on an automatic irrigation system.



Moringa with 4 Vetiver plants around it and only hand watered occasionally.

