

West Texas Pecans

Have you noticed the rows of green trees in the middle of the desert? If you could stop and listen, you might hear party music coming from a unique ranch concealed in the midst of the pecan groves. To the east of El Paso you are able to see fields of pecan trees, which stand out in bright contrast to the very dry lands which cover this area. Irrigation canals leading from the Rio Grande River allow west Texas farmers to grow pecans, which have become a favorite snack for many Texans. The pecan orchards produce nuts that are shipped all over the state of Texas and beyond.

In Texas, pecans are a favorite snack as well as a common ingredient in many local recipes, such as pecan pies and pralines. Traveling throughout Texas, people can easily spot pecan stands on the roadsides, with their bright signs advertising the many types of pecans and pecan items which they have for sale. Pecan stands sell these nuts in large paper bags fresh from the trees, or even coated in your favorite seasonings. If it's spice you want, they make them fiery hot; if its sweetness you crave, pecan stands can even coat them in gobs of syrup or dip them in rich and creamy chocolate. Amazing snacks are not the only thing found in the West Texas pecan groves...hidden deep in one grove is a very unusual ranch, and the source of that mysterious music.

Sonic Ranch began as a traditional cattle ranch...also raising exotic game species for hunting, as many Texas ranches do. But a man named Riley Allison bought the ranch and made it into something unique – first he introduced pecan orchards to the ranch, eventually creating the largest continuous orchard in Texas. Then in the midst of the orchard he built a luxurious resort which provides its guests with seclusion, quiet, and five high quality recording studios! Today popular musical artists visit Sonic Ranch from all over the country to record their music in a quiet, secluded oasis far from crowds and reporters. They hold parties, relax and rejuvenate with the help of the staff...and probably snack on pecans too!!

Source(s):

Hoffman, Eva J. "A Guidebook to Amtrak's Sunset Limited." Flashing Yellow

Guidebooks, Golden, CO, 2009.

• <http://www.sonicranch.com>

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