

December 3, 2015

Application to Vetiver.org

VetiverSpain

Sayalonga, Spain

www.VetiverSpain.com

How were they introduced to Vetiver?

Anna was originally from Zimbabwe where her parents operated the largest orchid nursery in Africa. Her love of all plants and gardening started during childhood. David is American and his father was USAF so he lived in many states. His last stop was Houston, Texas for 17 years. He has founded and owned numerous Telecommunication Companies, both private and public. He had offices all over the world providing Satellite Communication services including both transportable, land based satellite and fiber optic communications services for major corporations which included data, video and encryption services worldwide. He had over 400 employees. He has retired a number of times but keeps getting involved in businesses as an investor, board member or Chairman and CEO.

His companies built communication systems for numerous foreign governments.

They retired and now live in Sayalonga, which is in the Costa Del Sol region of Spain. Literally meaning, the “Coast of the Sun.” When they first moved to Spain their house was located on a mountainside that was not really usable land. They had a contractor come in with a mini digger and terrace the whole property. They gained a lot of useful land but there was one problem. After the first heavy rain they had bad soil erosion. Anna started researching for something to plant with a good root structure. She came upon the Vetiver Grass System. She found her original plants through the www.vertiver.org website and purchased the first 100 plants from Italy, the Monto variety.

The Vetiver solved the erosion problem and they kept planting more on various terraces and all the erosion problems were solved. They did not start out to be in the Vetiver business, it happened by chance. Numerous neighbors asked why they had no erosion issues like they had? They told them about Vetiver and directed them to the TVNI website and to a vendor in Italy. The neighbors and garden club members came back to them and asked if they could buy Vetiver directly from them since we had so many. They agreed to sell the plants to them and so the business started and grew.

They have done a lot of research and tried many different planting and growing techniques. They use the www.vetiver.org site frequently for research purposes as there is a world of information on the site. They direct all of their clients to the website and have the banner/link for TVNI on all of their website pages. Several of the founders of TVNI have been in touch with them and offered their assistance and input.

They are able to plant year round due to the wonderful climate in the south of Spain. They now have hundreds of thousands of plants. All the terrace edges are planted with Vetiver, both for erosion prevention, and for stock. Entire banks are planted with Vetiver as different examples to clients. Not only does this stop erosion, but also it is a very pretty plant year round. They have long and very dry summers and the landscape is brown, now they have green areas with the Vetiver.

Because of the favorable climate they can harvest plants after 5-6 months and one plant yields over 100 slips. They supply all slips with healthy root systems. They have found that placing them in water before shipping helps start new white roots. They have shipped all over the EU. When clients are local, they encourage them to visit and see how they have utilized Vetiver and also give instructions and

answer any questions the clients may have. They have frequent open houses for garden clubs. They have two greenhouses so they can plant for people in colder climates who want to get a start with established potted plants in the spring.

They have sold to the Spanish government and can comfortably say that as far as they know they are the largest provider of Vetiver in the EU and possibly in Europe.

They ask prospective clients to send them photos of their erosion issues to better suggest to them how to use Vetiver. They also do a climate analysis for their clients to choose the best time to plant. There are many different microclimates in Spain.

They have been working with several Permaculture groups here in Spain and provide information and plants to Garden Clubs throughout Spain. They have clients using Vetiver to build natural chlorine free Vetiver filtered pools.

Vetiver is almost non-existent here in Spain and has not been promoted until now. The Spanish Government has done a number of trials in Spain and now endorses its use for controlling erosion even though they do not use it. See our home page for the .pdf article highlighted in Red. It is a re-

education process that they are now going through with the Spanish and Expats alike.

It was interesting that they had a visitor to their garden club named Dick Handscombe who lives in Spain and has written over 30 books about gardening in Spain. Here is his website.

<http://gardenspain.com/>

They picked him up at the airport for the garden club as he was giving a presentation and he wanted to see the Vetiver grass. He came to their place and was pleasantly surprised. As he says, “I have been living in Spain and writing about gardening in Spain for over 25 years and I have never heard of or seen this incredible grass. What a great and cost effective solution to so many erosion problems here in Spain!”

Since then Dick Handscombe has written numerous articles about the plant Vetiver and the Company VetiverSpain. VetiverSpain is now on numerous blogs and websites that Dick posts on. VetiverSpain supplies him with plants so that he can do his own research. He is and will continue to be a great asset for the Vetiver System, TVNI and VetiverSpain. He is true believer and is well respected throughout Spain. You cannot open a gardening magazine or website without him being mentioned or having an article in it.

Prior to Mr. Handscombe VetiverSpain has had numerous articles written about them and they are starting an ad campaign in March to be ready for the demand they always see in the springtime and to further the education about Vetiver. This year they stopped most of their advertising to plant and prepare for next spring. For more information about VetiverSpain please visit their website.

www.vetiverspain.com

Here are just a few articles that mention Vetiver and VetiverSpain in Spanish papers, blogs and websites.

<http://www.costacalidachronicle.com/>

<http://issuu.com/euroweeklynews/docs/1585-mallorca>

See page 49.

<http://infoloko.com/blogs/mediterranean-gardening/vetiver-a-wonder-plant-for-sloping-gardens>

<http://blogs.angloinfo.com/your-garden-in-spain/2015/11/15/vetiver-a-new-dream-plant-for-spanish-gardens/>

<http://www.roundtownnews.com/life-and-leisure/gardening/54720/soil-erosion-could-be-a-thing-of-the-past-with-vetiver>

http://spanishnewstoday.com/delivered-by-post-vetiver-wonder-grass-a-natural-solution-to-soil-erosion-and-much-more_42481-a.html

<http://www.surinenglish.com/20141202/news/costas-ol-malaga/natural-erosion-remedy-201412021047.html>

<http://www.diariosur.es/axarquia/201411/23/remedio-contra-erosion-20141122234402.html>

Below are some photos that were put together to show how VetiverSpain operates.

Both of our organizations have the same goal of introducing this amazing grass to locations that need it and in our case have never heard of it.

VetiverSpain had some problems in the beginning with people believing Vetiver to be an invasive plant. VetiverSpain now has a letter from the government, the Junta, saying they have done their research and the plant is not invasive and they approve of its use. It will be a pleasure working with you all.

Dave and Anna

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Photo 1.



They ship slips with a nice root system. These slips are ready for shipping or planting. They also leave the plants in a Contractors black plastic bucket for potential clients that just happen to stop by. They enhance the water with Aspirin, which is made from the bark of the White Willow tree and is a natural root hormone enhancer. See their website for the results of the tests. They also provide their clients with aspirin and a recipe for all natural willow water if they want it.

<http://www.vetiverspain.com/planting-.html>

Photo 2.



This is smaller of the two greenhouses that they use mostly during the winter to propagate plants for people in colder clients so they can have a head start with more established plants in the spring. They regularly add additional slips or potted plants to orders and everyone gets Moringa Oleifera seeds as we grow them also. Here is a link to information about this incredible tree. They also grow and sell these trees in the greenhouse.

<http://idealbite.com/do-not-try-moringa-oleifera-until-you-read-the-facts-about-it/>

Photo 3.



Their original hedgerow is now 5 years old. This has been used extensively as stock.

Photo 4.



They have many walkways to show different ways to use Vetiver. This is as a hedge lining a walkway down to Anna's vegetable gardens.

Photo 5.



This is a photo of some newly planted Vetiver hedgerows that are about 4 .5 months old. They are used for erosion and windbreaks for their 100 freshly planted fragile Hass Avocado trees. They are in a very windy area in the winter time as the La Maroma 2,000 plus metre mountain range is west of them and the Mediterranean Sea is to the south of us. They also use these as stock.

Photo 6.



Paco Pelaez is their professional Spanish gardener who maintains their olive trees, fruit trees, greenhouses and the Vetiver fields. He has extensive knowledge of Vetiver having worked with it for 5 years, planting and harvesting it. We harvest when the plants are anywhere from 6 months onward. These plants here are less than 5 months old. One plant produces more than 100 slips.

Photo 7.



These are 3-month-old plants used as a windbreak for the raised vegetable beds behind organically grown purple sweet potatoes.

Photo 8.



These are 2-month-old potted plants delivered to the Town hall in Cartama, Spain. Cartama is located near Malaga. They are using it to halt the erosion in their parks and playgrounds. VetiverSpain is a licensed Spanish S.L. Company and registered and approved providers of Vetiver to the Spanish Government.

Photo 9.



Here you can see Paco digging the holes for the new Avocado trees behind a row of Vetiver. The Vetiver will be used for not only erosion control but also as a windbreak. Paco is selling Vetiver to the local Avocado farmers as windbreaks but also to increase crop yield. Dave and Anna have had so much luck with planting Vetiver in symbiotic relationships with other trees that we have planted the Avocado trees amongst the Vetiver. The Avocado trees will be in the center of the terraces. The Avocado trees will also benefit from the deep-rooted Vetiver during the summertime.

Photo 10.



This is a view of the south-facing slope of their property with a view of the little village Corumbela in the background. The sections of Vetiver can be seen. Some are 4 years old but the rows in the center and bottom of the photo are less than 5 months. They have a great climate to propagate Vetiver. They have just built a 150,000 Liter depository for our complete nursery. You can see it in the top right hand corner of the photo. They need this for the 100 new Avocado Trees that have been planted as Avocados require a lot of water.

Photo 11.



This is a closer view of the newest plantings on the lower level of the new terraces that are less than 5 months old when this photo was taken.

Photo 12.



This is the new 150,000-liter depository for the complete nursery. This includes all the flowers, Vegetables, the many different levels of Vetiver, the fruit trees, olive trees and the new 100 Hass Avocado trees. It has yet to be painted and planted around to make is a desirable entrance with a lot of Vetiver on the slopes behind it.

Photo 13

These three photos show VetiverSpain using Vetiver as both a windbreak and also halting erosion on the terraces. The Avocado trees will get the benefit of the closely planted Vetiver root systems in the long hot summer here.



Photo 14.



Photo 15.

