Shade grown yerba mate plantations

DO

Shade grown yerba mate plantations are regenerative production systems enriched with native plants that provide adequate shade for growing the yerba mate, a regenerative method of production with positive social and environmental collateral benefits.

Plot N° 1 in RAIz 1

Our purpose

Promote yerba mate production based on regenerative systems, either shade grown or forest grown, to regenerate the ecosystem.

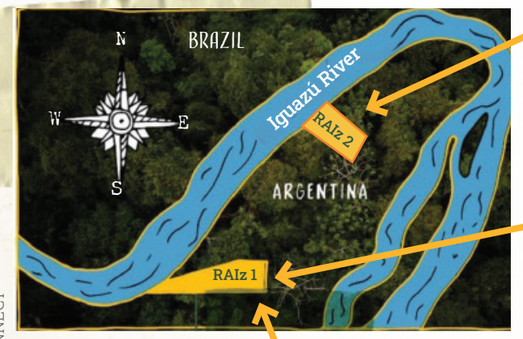
Produce and publish scientific material on shade grown yerba mate.

Provide a place for meeting, observation and learning about the plant in the reserve's plantations.

Become a reference site for regenerative systems in the cultivation of yerba mate to inspire other growers.

Our actions

For twelve years we have been experimenting with three regenerative system schemes to grow yerba mate under the shade of native tree species, in addition to research and education on the subject. We have a total of 18 plots of yerba mate.



Plantations in transition to shade grown in RAIz 2
In eight plots originally exposed to full sun, we initiated a process of regeneration five years ago, planting native tree species to produce the necessary conditions for a shade grown plantation.

Shade grown plantations in RAIz 1
With help from the local school students who visit us, we have planted native species to generate the necessary conditions for shade grown production system in six plots.

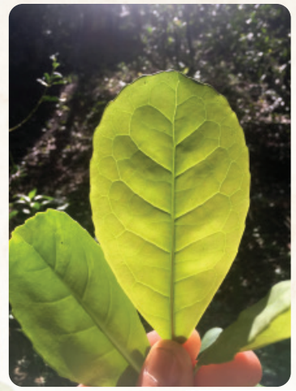
Forest grown plantations in RAIz 1
We incorporated yerba mate *(ilex paraguariensis)*, plants in four plots, generating forest grown plantations.

This work is accompanied by a record of the pertinent data (climate, harvests, precipitation, temperature, soil conditions) and assessment of our actions. We also report on the social and ecosystemic benefits of the practices developed in shade grown plantations.
Finally, we share information, educational materials and a space for in-person immersion for school and university students, as well as volunteers, institutions and the general public.

EDUCATE · DO · RESEARCH · CONNECT

Our edge

Pioneers in the region
We have been working for 12 years in production, research and education related to shade grown yerba mate. We are the first to implement this type of system in the region.



Yerba mate plant leaves

Socio-environmental benefits
Shade grown and forest grown yerba mate systems offer ecosystemic virtues such as biodiversity preservation, carbon capture and favorable, decent work conditions.

Diversification of scenarios
The different yerba mate production schemes in our reserves in the Andresito Peninsula facilitate learning about this type of system by providing different ways for people to envision the possibilities for transition, research and understanding of these systems.

Ilex varieties
There are seven Ilex varieties In the forest grown yerba mate system, donated by INTA Cerro Azul, contributing to the genetic preservation of the Ilex genus.

Potential information source
We have generated a variety of production and climate data records, among others, that are a potential source for future lines of research, where these records can be reviewed or ideas and concepts confirmed about shade grown yerba mate systems.

Our data

22 hectares (over 54 acres) of yerba mate planted

157.757 kg (over 347,795 lbs) of yerba mate harvested from 2011 to 2022

Certified yerba mate plantations
The plantations in our reserve hold four certifications:

- Regenerative Organic Certified (ROC)
- Agricultura Biodinámica (DEMETER)
- Fair For Life (FFL)
- Agricultura Orgánica (OIA)