

MESQUITE

Tips for High-Quality Harvests and Food Safety Best/Low-Risk Harvest Conditions

Dew point is below 50 degrees in low desert (<2,500' elevation)

Pre-monsoon season, when temperature is below 100 degrees
(harvest in early morning or at dusk when summer temperatures are
lowest)

No rain has fallen on brittle-dry ripe pods before harvest
(rain ok on green/unripe pods)

Pods are harvested from trees, not off ground (only exception: use
protective tarp under trees to collect just-fallen or shaken-down pods)

Pods are harvested from non-contaminated areas (avoid areas with
pet wastes, herbicides or pesticides, road pollutants, trash, etc)

Use food-grade containers to store completely dry pods in stable
environment with no pests

If trees produce second crop in Oct-Nov, harvest conditions are
ideal at this time as dew point, humidity and temperatures are
much lower during this season

These actions will minimize risks of aflatoxin exposure and other
food contaminants

