

Agronomic Investigations - Chandler, Arizona, 1976

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The Central Valley of Arizona harvested 13,219 acres with an average of 24.11 tons of beets per acre and 14.9 percent sugar content. The Buckeye District had record yields of 42 tons per acre with 14.3 percent sugar. Top growers for each district are listed with their respective yields in Table I.

Weather conditions were outstanding. Stands were generally better than in previous years. There can be improvement in our ability to cope with weeds and diseases.

Many soft rotting organism were prevalent during the summer months. Powdery mildew was generally mild and sporadic.

Willcox harvest yields for 3,753 acres were 17.8 tons per acre with an average of 13.5 percent sugar. All company and most independent growers were on double row 40 inch beds. Company beets represented 2,532 acres out of the total acres planted in Willcox. Root aphids, Cercospora, soft rot and curly top remain potential adverse economic factors. Weed control and irrigation programs have been unacceptable in the past and unfortunately remain so.

The emphasis in District 5 this year has been threefold. (A) Awareness of local problems and admitting a problem exists is the first step toward solving a problem. Much emphasis has been placed on identifying specific problems and determining possible immediate remedies. (B) Involvement and cooperation through local participation of various local agencies for district problems is the best method of utilizing expertise not otherwise available. Simply, the more people involved, including Spreckels research, fieldmen and growers, University and U.S.D.A., etc., the quicker we will have positive answers we vitally need. (C) Accomplishment is the ultimate goal for which we must strive. The important point to remember in accomplishment is arriving at "practical" answers for increasing yields economically.

In 1977, emphasis will be placed on condensing previous research data and expending on only the most probable, practical and economical methods and materials.

TABLE I

TOP SUGARBEET GROWERS IN ARIZONA

1975 Crop (1976 Hvst) Salt River Valley - Harvested 5/8/76 to 8/2/76
 1975 Crop (1976 Hvst) Yuma - Harvested 5/1/76 to 6/5/76
 1976 Crop (1976 Hvst) Willcox - Harvested 9/29/76 to 12/8/76

		<u>Acres</u>	<u>Total Tons</u>	<u>T/A</u>	<u>% S</u>	<u># Sugar Per Acre</u>
<u>BUCKEYE</u>						
1.	W. A. Heiden & Son	143	6,006	42.0	14.3	11,994
2.	Hayden Farms, Inc.	127	5,116	40.3	13.9	11,248
<u>CHANDLER</u>						
1.	Hoopes & Company	111	4,218	38.0	14.0	10,665
2.	Collier & Evans	106	3,399	32.1	15.4	9,890
<u>WEST PHOENIX</u>						
1.	F. C. Layton & Sons	68	2,824	41.5	14.2	11,824
2.	Ramie Ramero	47	1,687	35.9	14.5	10,395
<u>PINAL</u>						
1.	Glenn Lane	88	2,213	25.2	16.0	8,026
2.	Robert D. Bechtel	282	7,525	26.7	14.7	7,825
<u>YUMA</u>						
1.	Barkley Co. of Arizona	327	9,062	27.7	16.1	8,909
2.	Lee A. Consaul Co.	84	2,333	27.8	15.5	8,603
<u>WILLCOX</u>						
1.	Alvie Holmes	92	2,535	27.3	14.5	7,893
2.	Earl Moser	63	1,859	29.5	12.2	7,293