

Report on the Salt River Valley Citrus Experiment Station

Lowell True & Dean Bacon

The 40 acre station, now into its fourth year of operation, is in the Waddell area, approximately 30 miles west of Phoenix. The first planting of citrus trees on the station was during the spring and summer of 1990. These planted blocks consist of Campbell, oldline Valencia orange on four rootstocks, Minneola tangelo on two rootstocks and Redblush grapefruit on four rootstocks.

During the spring of 1991 a block of U of A #2 Navel oranges and a block of Fairchild tangerines will be planted. Fall 1991 plantings will include Kinnow mandarin, Parent Navel's and Star Ruby and Rio Red grapefruit. A block of mixed varieties will be planted in the spring of 1991 as a demonstration-educational block for public demonstrations, etc.

The planted blocks are being watered with the low pressure, bubbler system used at both the Yuma and Maricopa Experiment stations. A holding sump has been constructed on the station to receive project water before diversion into the bubbler system. Additional water delivery systems, including drip and microjet sprinklers, will be installed by 1992 as comparative systems.

A small planting of mixed varieties budded on the trifoliate, "Flying Dragon" root will be made to evaluate the dwarfing effect and production potential under desert conditions.

As a cooperative project, the station is currently being utilized for deciduous fruit, jojoba, bush berry and vegetable trials. A small planting of Manzanillo olive trees will be made in 1991 to evaluate production potential and for research projects.