

Yuma's Citrus Acreage is Growing

Yuma Mesa Citrus Acreage

Varieties	Before 1952	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957-58	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	total
Oranges:														
Valencia	500	19	5	40	106	223	1,594	1,511	2,004*	993	839	777	37	8,648
Navels	17					10	89		130		-5**	-5		236
Hamlin		5				20	65		30		6	10		136
Blood								15**						15
Indian River											2			2
Temple										3				3
Miscellaneous														
Grapefruit:														
White	913		19		28	5	120**	140	81	5	-25**	-23		1,263
Red Blush	20	15	30	118	143	108	207**		10		-65**			586
Lemons:														
Lisbon (5,524)												220	30	250
Eureka (514)														
Villa Franka (60)														
Pryor													140	140
Rosenberger													20	20
Total all Lemons thru 1962	220	260	241	*857	1,545	745	1,583	269	43*	65	-2**			5,826
Tangerines:														
Clementine (Algerian)		5	5	8	50	5	35	87	35	60	12	15		317
Dancy				10							8	5		23
Kinnow Mandarines												40		40
Tangelos:														
Minneola					5	1	4		5	132	95	80		322
Orlando									5	20		10		45
Limes:														
Miscellaneous (Variety Plantings)		5				15**					2			22
TOTAL														
BY YEARS	1,680	304	303	1,075	1,832	1,162	3,749	1,970	2,368	1,220	867	1,129	237	17,896

* Total Acres Minus Acres Removed in Runway Extension
 ** Acreage Reduced from Topworking or Variety Change

Wellton-Mohawk Mesa Citrus Acreage

Varieties	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	total
Oranges:						
Valencia	175	263	282	705	840	2,265
Washington Navels	12	18	26	20	125	201
Hamlin	24	45		80		149
Indian River	10				210	220
Grapefruit:						
White	17					17
Red Blush			5			5
Lemon:						
	22					22
Tangerines:						
Clementine Algerian	10	4	13			27
Dancy Tangerine					30	30
Kinnow Mandarins		6	15		100	121
Minneola Tangelo			5		80	85
Miscellaneous	20					20
Total By Years	290	336	346	805	1,385	3,162

Robert E. Grounds

"From Mesa to Mesa and Now to the Valley" might be the phrase used to describe the changing planting pattern of citrus in Yuma County.

The Yuma Mesa is divided between two irrigation projects, the old area south and west of the U of A Mesa Experiment Station, called the Yuma Mesa Auxiliary Project Part I, Unit B, and the Yuma Mesa Project, which is a division of the Gila Project, the new area.

Started Many Years Ago

Citrus was first planted in commercial quantities 35 to 40 years ago on

Mr. Grounds is a Yuma County Agricultural Agent whose principal professional interest is the commercial citrus industry.

the Mesa. Water was pumped to the first groves by some old Ford motors from the canal that ran along the base of the Mesa. Shortly thereafter, the Unit B district was established and citrus was planted.

Most people thought citrus would never prosper, and one of the highest repayment rates for any irrigation district in the west was set up for the Unit B district. Even though this imposed a hardship on the growers, it was paid on time and now is completely grower-owned, showing that citrus will pay its way on the Yuma Mesa.

Most of the older citrus was grapefruit, with slightly over 1,000 acres in grapefruit, 500 acres in oranges and 220 acres of lemons in the Unit B district. There are 3,316 net irrigated acres in the district, so only two-thirds of the possible acreage was planted.

Recent Yuma Valley Citrus Acreage

	1963	1964	Total
Oranges:			
Valencias	140	240	380
Washington			
Navels		10	10
Hamlin			
Temples		35	35
Grapefruit			
Lemons: Pryor		40	40
Total by Years	140	325	465

Plantings slowed during the war years and then increased, until now there are just a few small blocks not planted.

The new area (that area around and south of the airport, along Highway 80 and adjacent to the city) consists of the Yuma Mesa Irrigation District. It contains approximately 19,000 acres of which most is now planted to citrus. Some cotton and peanuts are still grown, but these acreages are diminishing each year or grown between the citrus rows.

East to the Mountains

The next mesa that began to develop was the Wellton-Mohawk Mesa, beginning about 35 miles east of Yuma and extending nearly to the Mohawk Mountains all along Highway 80, forming a long narrow mesa under irrigation. There are approximately 14,000 acres that could be developed that are in the district. In the last few years this has rapidly increased in citrus plantings until it now has 3,162 acres of citrus. (See Wellton-Mohawk table). Most of this acreage is planted to Valencia oranges. Two of the bigger plantings are entirely Valencia oranges.

This mesa is rolling and has some cold areas and some warm. The soil is heavier than the Superstition Sand series on the Yuma Mesa. It also has some thin clay layers which new growers need to break up or watch out for. Trees require less water than on the Yuma Mesa due to the heavy soils.

Many irrigation methods are used, from bordering one row to large borders where several rows are irrigated at once. Most of the irrigation runs are 660 feet but several are 1,400 to 1,600 feet in length. Usually, with the longer runs, more fall is used to shorten the water run time. Alfalfa was the principal crop on the Mesa before the

(Continued on Next Page)

YUMA CITRUS

(Continued from Previous Page)

planting of citrus, so most groves are in soils that have several years' history of plant growth.

Scattered Small Plantings

East of the Wellton-Mohawk Mesa there are a few spots where citrus exists in Yuma County. These spots are the Dateland area with about 15 acres planted, Horn (N.E. on the Bruce Church Co. property) where some trial plantings of 100 acres are being conducted, and the Hyder area where a few scattered trees have been placed to observe their growth characteristics. There are several large plantings planned for these areas if these trial plants are satisfactory.

The newest citrus area is in the Yuma Valley, where trial planting two years ago have gone through two winters with little damage. This has triggered new plantings of several hundred acres. (See Yuma Valley table) Many of these recent plantings are 240 trees to the acre, half on Rough Lemon rootstock and half on Troyer rootstock. Research shows that Troyer does better on the heavier soils, but is more easily affected by salts than Rough Lemon.

These new plantings actually are commercial-sized research blocks, designed to help select the best rootstock for the valley. Some older citrus acreage in the valley, now approximately 25 years old, was all budded on the old favorite rootstock, Sour Orange. This still is one of the best rootstocks, but due to the disease tristeza, (Quick Decline) in California, most citrus currently being planted in Yuma County is not being planted on Sour Orange rootstock.

Additional Acreage Planned

Many new plantings are planned for the Yuma Valley, the Wellton-Mohawk Mesa and surrounding areas where good soil and high quality water can be found. The Yuma County citrus acreage is now slightly over 21,500 acres and plantings proposed for next year will add about 2,000 more acres.

Yuma area lemons, oranges and grapefruit have been received well on domestic markets and overseas. Two new citrus packing sheds are being built to handle the increasing volume of fruit that will be available. Packing facilities in Yuma are the newest in the nation, due to the recent expansion by existing packing houses and new ones now being built.

After 50 Years

EXTENSION SERVICE IS BOTH OLD AND NEW

Joe McClelland

"There's nothing new under the sun."

Many are the arguments begun by the above statement, but the fact remains that often we are surprised by the basic truth it indicates.

Take the Cooperative Extension Service, for instance. It's a branch of The University of Arizona's College of Agriculture, with offices in every county of Arizona. Just 50 years ago it was established under the "cooperative" Smith-Lever Act which set up a county, state, and federal government partnership that ever since has been the envy of other nations throughout the world.

Principles Are the Same

Now, needless to say, there are a lot of new things in the Extension program—and in Arizona agriculture—since that 50-year-ago beginning. But essentially the basic principles involved have not changed. The similarities may be more dramatic than the changes.

The Cooperative Extension Service program still follows the Smith-Lever law's directive "to aid in diffusing useful and practical information on subjects related to agriculture and home economics and to encourage application of same."

Fifty years ago, the Extension Service staff consisted of a superintendent (later called director), a livestock specialist, a state 4-H club agent, an office secretary and two county agents.

Today there are 37 state-staff sub-

Joe McClelland is probably one of the "most read" editors in Arizona, having edited countless agricultural and home economics publications since he became Extension Information Specialist here just 17 years ago. His work has won many blue ribbons in national competition, and Joe himself has been honored by his national association (American Association of Agricultural College Editors) by serving as its president, as well as holding other offices of trust in that organization.



HIGHLY CAPABLE DIRECTOR of the Cooperative Extension Service at The University of Arizona today is Dr. George E. Hull.

ject-matter specialists, and a county staff of 54, with an office in each of the state's 14 counties. And the job of Extension continues to be that of education, with the entire state as its classroom.

The Extension Service is under the direction of Dr. George E. Hull. The list of directors, with their terms of service over the 50-year period, is as follows:

Stanley F. Morse

July 1, 1914 - August 15, 1916
(first year Superintendent, second year Director and State Leader)

Estes Park Taylor

October 1, 1916 - June 30, 1920

William M. Cook

July 1, 1920 - June 30, 1922

Alando B. Ballantine

(Acting Director)

July 1, 1922 - June 30, 1923

Clarence T. Dowell

July 1, 1923 - July 31, 1923

Pontius H. Ross

September 22, 1923 - October 31, 1936

(Continued on Next Page)