

Before circa 1450

People known today as the *Hohokam* dig a complex system of canals in central and southern Arizona and use the water to grow corn, beans, squash, gourds, and cotton.

Circa = about, approximately



Image Source: Robert B. Ciaccio, ArchaeologySouthwest.org

Circa 1707

Catholic missionaries, led by *Father Eusebio Kino*, bring citrus trees and many other new crops from Europe to present-day Arizona.

Circa = about, approximately



Image Source: Paul Mirocha, SantaCruzHeritage.org

1867

Jack Swilling and other American settlers begin digging out ancient Hohokam canals and establish farms in the Salt River Valley.



Image Source: Wikimedia Commons

1889

Phoenix is named the capital of the Arizona Territory. *William and Laura Murphy* use water from the Arizona Canal to irrigate the first large-scale citrus groves in the territory, near Camelback Mountain.



Image Sources: Library of Congress Historic American Engineering Record (az0241)

1895

150,000 citrus trees are growing in the Salt River Valley as new railroads allow produce to be shipped quickly across the country.

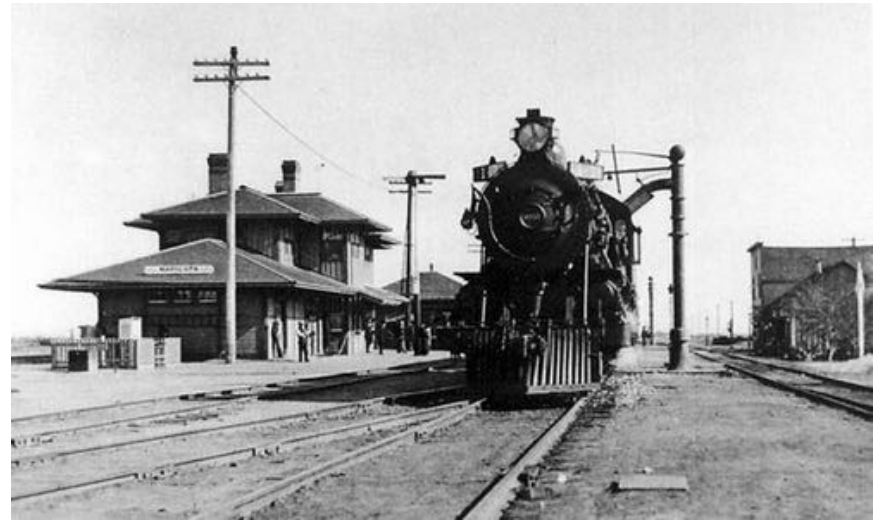


Image Sources: TrueWestMagazine.com

1928

Farmers form the Arizona Citrus Growers Association, which makes it easier and cheaper to package and ship their produce.



Image Source: EastValleyTribune.com

1970

Citrus production in Arizona peaks with 80,000 acres of orange, grapefruit, lemon, and tangerine groves.

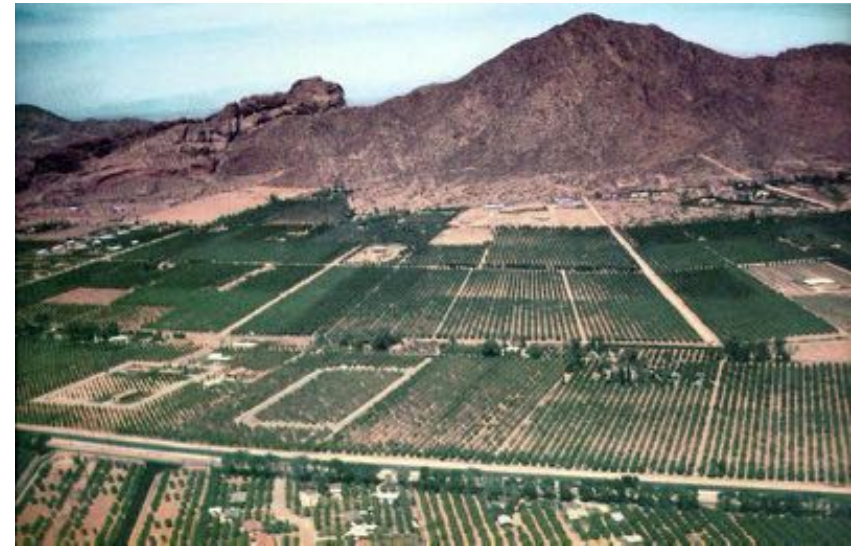


Image Source: RogueColumnist.com

Today

Arizona citrus production has been steadily decreasing since the 1970s as the population grows and agricultural land is turned into housing developments and strip malls.



Image Source: Maricopa County Historic Aerial Photography GIS Portal, 2016 September – December (Val Vista to Greenfield / McDowell to McKellips)