



AMERICAN INDIAN TECH

INVENTIONS / MEDICINES / AND MORE



Desert Farming

"Desert farming" broadly refers to the practice of cultivating crops and raising livestock in arid or semi-arid regions characterized by low rainfall and limited water resources. It encompasses a range of techniques, from traditional methods adapted to harsh environments to modern, technology-driven approaches aimed at maximizing water efficiency.

"Ak-Chin farming" refers to the traditional dry farming techniques employed by the Ak-Chin Indian Community and their ancestors, the O'odham people, in the arid Sonoran Desert. This method strategically utilizes the seasonal floodplains created by winter snows and summer monsoon rains. Farmers plant crops in areas where washes (ephemeral streams) lose their flow into the sandy soil, capitalizing on the natural moisture and nutrient-rich sediment deposited by these intermittent waters. This sustainable practice allowed the Ak-Chin to cultivate crops like corn, beans, and squash for centuries before the introduction of modern irrigation. Their deep understanding of the local hydrology and soil conditions is central to this unique agricultural tradition, the very name "Ak-Chin" meaning "mouth of the wash."

Learn more here <https://www8.nau.edu/hcipo-p/AgricFactYth.pdf>

Tribes that used this technology

Ak-Chin Indian Community
Hopi
Tohono O'odham
Zuni
Ancestral Puebloans (Anasazi)
Navajo
Gila River Indian Community (Akimel O'odham and Maricopa)
Mojave

