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Soil Indicators of Diversity, Productivity, and Environmental Impact of Ancient American Agriculture

Over many generations, Native American farmers have developed remarkable agricultural strategies in a diverse range of environments. These agricultural systems contain information relevant to challenges in agriculture and natural resource management today. Studies of ancient agriculture can provide long-term perspectives on soil quality and land use sustainability. Investigations of past and present American Indian agroecosystems mainly in the Southwest are presented, with emphasis on terrain and management used for arid land agriculture, and the long-term state of soil resources.