

Onion information kit

Reprint – information current in 1997



REPRINT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ!

For updated information please call 13 25 23 or visit the website www.deedi.qld.gov.au

This publication has been reprinted as a digital book without any changes to the content published in 1997. We advise readers to take particular note of the areas most likely to be out-of-date and so requiring further research:

- Chemical recommendations—check with an agronomist or Infopest www.infopest.qld.gov.au
- Financial information—costs and returns listed in this publication are out of date. Please contact an adviser or industry body to assist with identifying more current figures.
- Varieties—new varieties are likely to be available and some older varieties may no longer be recommended. Check with an agronomist, call the Business Information Centre on 13 25 23, visit our website www.deedi.qld.gov.au or contact the industry body.
- Contacts—many of the contact details may have changed and there could be several new contacts available. The industry organisation may be able to assist you to find the information or services you require.
- Organisation names—most government agencies referred to in this publication have had name changes. Contact the Business Information Centre on 13 25 23 or the industry organisation to find out the current name and contact details for these agencies.
- Additional information—many other sources of information are now available for each crop. Contact an agronomist, Business Information Centre on 13 25 23 or the industry organisation for other suggested reading.

Even with these limitations we believe this information kit provides important and valuable information for intending and existing growers.

This publication was last revised in 1997. The information is not current and the accuracy of the information cannot be guaranteed by the State of Queensland.

This information has been made available to assist users to identify issues involved in onion production. This information is not to be used or relied upon by users for any purpose which may expose the user or any other person to loss or damage. Users should conduct their own inquiries and rely on their own independent professional advice.

While every care has been taken in preparing this publication, the State of Queensland accepts no responsibility for decisions or actions taken as a result of any data, information, statement or advice, expressed or implied, contained in this publication.



Queensland Government

Onion Information Kit

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AgriLink
your growing guide
to better farming

S E R I E S

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Onion Information Kit

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Agrilink concept devised by Noel Vock and Brian Cull.

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Disclaimer

Information contained in this publication is provided as general advice only. For application to specific circumstances, professional advice should be sought.

The Department of Primary Industries, Queensland has taken all reasonable steps to ensure the information contained in this publication is accurate at the time of publication. Readers should ensure that they make appropriate enquiries to determine whether new information is available on the particular subject matter.

Foreword

The Queensland Horticulture Institute is a business unit of the Department of Primary Industries with staff located at 16 centres across the State. It is the service delivery arm of the Queensland Government's support for the fruit, vegetable and amenity horticulture industries.

The core business of the Queensland Horticulture Institute is information. Our team of researchers, extension officers and other skilled professionals generate, format and distribute information to advance the horticultural sector.

Agrilink is a new concept in developing and packaging the information regularly sought by producers of horticultural commodities.

Each Agrilink kit has been designed to be both comprehensive and practical. As they are arranged to answer questions of increasing complexity, they are useful references for both new and experienced producers of specific crops. Agrilink integrates the technology of horticultural production with the management of horticultural enterprises.

Agrilink is a team effort. Each kit has been conceived and written by a team of extension and research staff with specialist knowledge of the crop and commodity. Most of the kits have also been field-tested by producers and other users. Agrilink products are being produced to high quality standards so that you can obtain maximum benefit from your investment in information.

Technology and crop management information are changing rapidly. Agrilink has been designed so that each kit can be regularly updated and kept relevant as a practical aid for horticultural producers.

The Queensland Horticulture Institute aims to be the key provider of innovative research services and support for the development of horticulture in Queensland. We seek to find solutions through science. Agrilink is a means of bringing that information to you.

Geoff Behncken

Convenor, Steering Committee
Queensland Horticulture Institute

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Diseases of vegetable crops, Denis Persley (ed), Department of Primary Industries, Queensland.

A handbook of plant diseases in colour, Vol. 2, Field crops, Noel Vock (ed), Department of Primary Industries, Queensland.

Insect pests of fruit and vegetables, G. A. Swaine, D. A. Ironside and R. J. Corcoran (eds), Department of Primary Industries, Queensland.

Tomato pests and disorders, Garry Fullelove (ed), Department of Primary Industries, Queensland.

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Preface

To be viable and competitive, horticultural growers face many challenges. These require significant economic and social restructuring and the adoption of new, complex and high risk technologies. The main prerequisite for these decisions is the availability of high quality, timely and relevant information.

Producing this information was the challenge that triggered the Agrilink information concept in 1992. Agrilink evolved from research that showed our existing information at that time lacked completeness, quality, easy access and regular updating. Over the last four years, Agrilink has developed and trialled a new information system to address these deficiencies. This has culminated in this new series of information kits.

Agrilink is built around several important principles. Its products focus on the core information that is most needed and regularly sought by growers. The information is presented in line with how it has been sought from us over the last 15 years. The contents are packaged into integrated information kits that make access and information retrieval easy. For the first time, we are providing a commitment to updating the information on an annual basis. The whole system is being operated under quality management to guarantee product quality and integrity.

The development of Agrilink has been a team effort. I thank all of the DPI staff, consultants and growers who have cooperated in our information gathering workshops. I also thank the artists, printing consultants and editors who have helped to turn the raw information into information kits. This new stage of Agrilink is possible through the funding support of DPI's New Initiatives Program, for which I am particularly grateful. This support has enabled a specialist project team to be developed to carry on the work. I thank this team for the wonderful effort they have put in to getting this new stage off the ground.

Four people deserve special mention. Brian Cull helped to develop the Agrilink concept and has vigorously encouraged its development since. Geoff Behncken provided the initial funding and was instrumental in helping secure the special funding for this new stage. Loraine Chapman has provided a range of specialist design and desktop publishing skills, a contribution which has been outstanding. Cheryl Hutchings helped to develop the Agrilink logo and has provided valuable commercial advice throughout.

I believe that Agrilink has made considerable progress in the challenge to provide high quality, timely and relevant information to Queensland's horticultural industries. The Agrilink project team looks forward to continuing the work into the new millennium.

Noel Vock
Agrilink Project Leader

About the authors

Dr Ken Jackson

Ken is a Principal Horticulturist at the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Gatton Research Station. He has 25 years experience in crop agronomy and plant improvement, initially with safflower, guar and lupins in Central Queensland. Since 1985 he has been responsible for the Queensland research program for heavy vegetables including potatoes, onions, pumpkins, sweet potatoes and garlic. Ken has also provided significant input into the extension program for these crops.

John Kerr

John recently retired from DPI as a Senior District Adviser after 41 years service to Queensland agriculture. He was based at five centres providing information on a range of field crops and pastures. He has had a long association with the Queensland onion industry at Atherton, Boonah and Gatton.

Graham Shrodter

Graham worked at DPI's Gatton Research Station from 1969 until 1991, when he left to work the family farm. While with DPI he worked in a wide range of crops including onions and garlic. Graham's onion work included testing herbicides; investigating plant population; interactions between varieties, planting times and nutrition; and the selection of local onion strains in the Lockyer Valley.

Craig Henderson

Craig is a Senior Horticulturist at DPI's Gatton Research Station where he works with a broad range of vegetable crops including onions. Craig's main interests are weed management and irrigation scheduling. His current program involves developing integrated weed management systems and understanding the interactions with cover cropping, mulch management and vegetable agronomy.

Rob O'Brien

Rob is a Principal Plant Pathologist with wide experience in the identification and control of vegetable diseases. He has been based at DPI's Agricultural Research Laboratories, Indooroopilly since 1977, where he has led research on vegetable diseases. Rob's particular interest in onions has been the development of a spray warning system for downy mildew.

Jerry Lovatt

Jerry is an Information Extension Officer at DPI's Bundaberg Research Station. Since joining DPI in 1967, he has worked at six centres around Queensland where he has accumulated a wealth of knowledge about Queensland horticulture. Jerry joined the Agrilink project team in 1993 and is now responsible for the development of information packages for vegetable crops.