

Rice flower 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 We advise readers to take particular note of the areas most likely to be out-of-date and so requiring further research: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- Financial information—costs and returns listed in this publication are out of date.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 marketing rice flower. 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

2. Australian production of rice flower³

Localities

Rice flower is grown commercially in all mainland states of Australia, although some supplies are still harvested from wild bushes in Queensland and New South Wales. The shaded areas of the map below (see Figure 1) show the location of growers throughout the country.



Figure 1: Distribution of Australian rice flower growers

Source: DPI survey of rice flower growers and nursery operators

While the precise numbers of growers cultivating rice flower in each state have not been documented, extensive enquires indicate that as of July 1996 there were 20 to 25 growers in Queensland with estimated total plantings of 37 000 plants. There were at least 3 growers in the Central Highlands and 20 others in south and south-east Queensland. Of these Queensland growers, 5 had more than 1 000 plants. The others had smaller plantations.

In New South Wales there were 3 main growers with more than 1 000 plants and an unknown number with fewer than 1 000 plants. The estimated total plantings of rice flower exceeded 20 000 plants. Most of the plantations were in northern New South Wales and to the north and south of Sydney.

In Victoria there were 2 growers with more than 1 000 plants and about 10 others with fewer than 1 000 plants. The estimated total plantings of rice flower exceeded 18 000 plants. Plantations were near Horsham, in East Gippsland and at Wangaratta.

Estimated plantings for South Australia comprised 20 000 plants distributed among approximately 20 growers. Some industry sources put the figure at 30 000 plants. The plantations were in the Yorke Peninsula, the Adelaide Hills, the south-east and the Riverland.

³ This section has been drawn from the chapter on the Australian rice flower industry prepared by Roger Tomes in the companion report *Rice flower as an export industry—Market opportunities*.

In Western Australia there were approximately 10 rice flower growers with estimated plantings of 15 000 plants. The plantations were mainly to the north and south of Perth.

The estimate for the total number of rice flower plants in plantations throughout Australia in July 1996 was approximately 120 000. Many of these are likely to have been young plants, yet to achieve harvestable age.

Total yield estimates

It is difficult to estimate with any degree of certainty the likely size of the Australian rice flower harvest: not all growers could be traced, and the total number of plants and their age, average yields and survival prospects are not known. Theoretical estimates based on plant numbers and yields for plants of different ages put the 1996 harvest at between 800 000 and 1 300 000 stems. This greatly exceeds the 500 000 stems exported to Japan in 1995.

Industry sources have commented that despite increased plantings the total harvest of rice flower in 1996 was less than had been expected. Drought, disease and plant deaths adversely affected yields. The 500 000 stems harvested for export in 1996 were well short of the quantity required for volume exports, a fact which highlights the difficulties of growing and harvesting rice flower economically.