

# Low chill stonefruit information kit

Reprint – information current in 1998



## REPRINT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ!

For updated information please call 13 25 23 or visit the website [www.deedi.qld.gov.au](http://www.deedi.qld.gov.au)

This publication has been reprinted as a digital book without any changes to the content published in 1998. We advise readers to take particular note of the areas most likely to be out-of-date and so requiring further research: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](http://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- Financial information—costs and returns listed in this publication are out of date.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](http://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 1998. 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 low chill stonefruit 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

# Low Chill Stonefruit Information Kit

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**Agrilink**  
your growing guide  
to better farming  
**SERIES**  
QAL9705

Queensland Horticulture Institute  
Department of Primary Industries, Queensland  
in collaboration with  
New South Wales Agriculture

## **Low Chill Stonefruit Information Kit**

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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 17 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 **providing effective technical, scientific and market driven solutions for the horticulture industries. A key element of this is information.** Our team of researchers, extension officers and other skilled professionals generates, formats and distributes 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 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.

Kathryn Adams  
Director  
Queensland Horticulture Institute

# Acknowledgements

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- *Diseases of fruit crops*, Denis Persley (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.
- *Plant nutrient disorders 1 — Temperate and subtropical fruit and nut crops*, R G Weir and G C Cresswell, NSW Agriculture.

The books, *Protect your stonefruit* by Jodie Campbell (ed), and *Fertilising low chill stonefruit* by J M Slack, D O Huett and Alan George were used extensively in compiling the sections on pest management and nutrition respectively.

The economic analysis for the Atherton Tableland is an extract from *Growing low-chill peaches in the Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation Area — An economic perspective*, kindly provided by Andrew Hinton, DPI, Mareeba.

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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 each year. 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

## **Jodie Campbell**

Jodie is an Extension Horticulturist with DPI's Queensland Horticulture Institute, based at Maroochy Research Station, Nambour. She has 12 years experience in extension work with temperate and subtropical fruit industries including low chill stonefruit, persimmon and custard apple. In low chill stonefruit, she has played a major role in industry development and marketing and is now part of the ACIAR project 'Adaptation of temperate fruit to Thailand and Australia'.

## **Alan George**

Alan is a Senior Principal Horticulturist with DPI's Queensland Horticulture Institute, based at Maroochy Research Station, Nambour. He has 26 years experience in tree fruit agronomy and physiology, much of that in low chill stonefruit. He has travelled extensively in south-east Asia, undertaking consultancies in the development of temperate zone fruits for tropical and subtropical regions, and has provided extensive training for Asian research and extension staff. He is currently leader of the ACIAR project 'Adaptation of temperate fruit to Thailand and Australia'. Alan is a former Chairman of the 200-member International Society of Horticultural Science working group on growing temperate fruits in the tropics and subtropics.

## **John Slack**

John is a District Horticulturist with NSW Agriculture, based at the Tropical Fruit Research Station at Alstonville. He has 28 years experience in horticulture and has been involved in stonefruit for all of that time. He has served the industry in an extension capacity for over 20 years and, for the last 10 years, has had a major involvement in low chill stonefruit. His major contributions have been in the areas of industry development, variety evaluation, nutrition, orchard netting, pest management and disease forecasting.

## **Bob Nissen**

Bob is a District Experimentalist with DPI's Queensland Horticulture Institute, based at Maroochy Research Station, Nambour. He has 23 years experience in physiology and propagation of a wide range of subtropical and tropical tree fruits, as well as a special interest and involvement in software engineering. He has also been involved with consultancy and training in Sri Lanka. Bob has been involved in low chill stonefruit research for 15 years, projects including variety evaluation, flowering and crop manipulation and nutrition. He is currently a member of the ACIAR project 'Adaptation of temperate fruit to Thailand and Australia'.

## **Noel Vock**

Noel is a Senior Principal Information Extension Officer with DPI's Queensland Horticulture Institute, based at Maroochy Research Station, Nambour. He has 25 years experience in developing information systems in agriculture, initially in plant pathology, and for the last 17 years in horticulture. In 1992, he co-jointly developed the Agrilink information concept and has since led the Agrilink information project.



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