

Persimmon information kit

Reprint – information current in 2005



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 2005. We advise readers to take particular note of the areas most likely to be out-of-date and so requiring further research: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- Financial information—costs and returns listed in this publication are out of date.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 2005. 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 persimmon 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

GROWING GUIDE

Sweet persimmon grower's handbook

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Contents

	Acknowledgements	iv
	About the authors	iv
	Using this guide	vi
	Units and abbreviations	viii
	Persimmon varieties	ix
Chapter 1	Before you start a checklist of things you need to know before you start growing sweet persimmon	1
Chapter 2	Common questions most commonly asked questions about growing sweet persimmon	15
Chapter 3	Growing the crop our guide to establishing, growing, harvesting and marketing sweet persimmon	23
Chapter 4	Key issues detailed information on the key decisions for sweet persimmon growers	67
Chapter 5	Contacts and references a list of industry organisations, product suppliers and further reading	213
Chapter 6	Handy guides a list of chemicals currently registered in Australia and their registered uses	231
	Index	238

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About the authors

Alan George is a Senior Principal Horticulturist with the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) based at Maroochy Research Station, Nambour. He has 30 years experience in tree fruit agronomy and physiology and has worked extensively in South-East Asia developing temperate zone fruits for tropical and subtropical regions and providing training for research and extension staff.

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Stephen Jeffers is an experienced grower and nurseryman who has been involved with sweet persimmons for approximately 15 years. He is currently President of the Persimmon Industry Association Inc. (PIAI), and manages a persimmon and avocado orchard in Nambour, south-east Queensland.

Scott Ledger is a Principal Extension Horticulturist with more than 20 years experience working with horticulture supply chains to improve knowledge and practices in all sectors, from grower to retailer. His experience spans a wide range of crops, covering aspects such as technology development, identifying and quantifying quality hazards, and implementing quality and food safety systems.

Barb Isaacson, with her husband Geoff, has been a persimmon grower in the Riverland of South Australia since the 1980s. She was president of the persimmon industry body of South Australia for 15 years, working with the Secretary, B Lloyd. Barb played a key role in forming the Australian Persimmon Industry Association. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, a group of 10–15 growers joined with Ray Collins of the University of Queensland, Gatton, to export persimmons to South-East Asia. That group grew to 35 growers, and is now known as the Australian Persimmon Export Company (APEC). Barb was executive director of APEC for many years before retiring in 2006.

Noel Vock is a Principal Extension Horticulturist with DPI&F based at Maroochy Research Station, Nambour. He has been an extension officer, principally in developing information systems in plant pathology and horticulture, for more than 30 years. In 1992, he jointly developed the Agrilink information concept and has since led the Agrilink information project, responsible for the production of 25 grower handbooks.

Loraine Chapman is a Publishing Production Officer with DPI&F based at Maroochy Research Station, Nambour. She has more than 12 years experience in publishing, coordinating and editing Agrilink and other publications for DPI&F, including several information CDs.

Using this guide

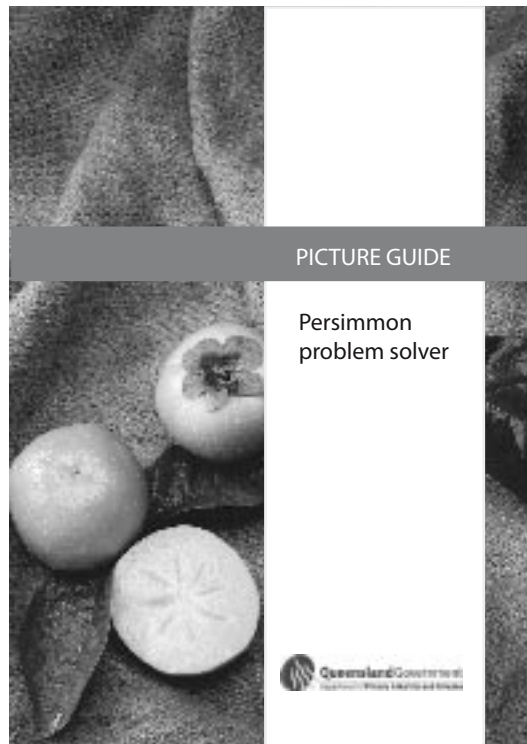
The handbook is constructed around two important principles. First, it focuses on the core information that is most needed and regularly used by growers. Therefore, it does not provide detailed information on all areas of growing the crop; where additional information is available and considered useful for further study, references are provided. Second, the information is presented in line with how it has been sought from the authors over a number of years. Hence, there are different chapters of the handbook designed to suit different needs. Here is a brief roadmap:

If you are:	Start with:
Intending to grow (thinking about growing sweet persimmon)	<p>Before you start—a checklist of the things you need to know before you start growing the crop, and will give you the best introduction into other sections of the handbook.</p> <p>Other useful chapters are:</p> <p>Common questions—the most commonly asked questions about growing the crop</p> <p>Contacts and references—a list of industry organisations, product suppliers and further reading</p>
A new grower (about to establish an orchard, in the process of doing so, or taking over an orchard as a new grower)	<p>Growing the crop—the authors' guide for establishing, producing and handling the crop and will refer to other appropriate sections of the handbook where needed. Other useful chapters are:</p> <p>Key issues—detailed information on the key decisions for persimmon growers</p> <p>Contacts and references—list of industry organisations, product suppliers and further reading</p> <p>Handy guides—list of chemicals currently registered in Australia and their registered uses</p>
An established or a more experienced grower	<p>Key issues—this chapter contains the most detailed technical information on the key decisions for growers. Other useful chapters are:</p> <p>Handy guides—list of chemicals currently registered in Australia and their registered uses</p>

Limitations

There are some limitations in using this handbook. These include:

- The book does not contain colour pictures of pests, diseases or other problems that occur in sweet persimmon. These are found in the picture guide companion to the handbook, *Persimmon problem solver*.



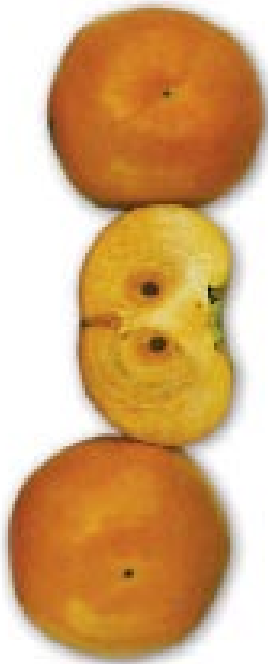
- We do not intend that the handbook be used as the only tool in reaching key management decisions. We always recommend that you also seek independent advice from consultants and other sweet persimmon specialists.
- Chemical registrations can change. Always check the registration details on the label before using the product. Sources of updated information are contained in Chapter 5, Contacts and references.

Units and abbreviations

Unit	Abbreviation
centibar	cb
deciSiemen	dS
hour	h
hectare	ha
kilogram	kg
kilopascal	kPa
litre	L
pound	lb
metre	m
milliequivalent	meq
milligram	mg
millilitre	mL
megalitre	ML
millimetre	mm
parts per million	ppm
tonne	t

Persimmon varieties

Izu



Fruit characteristics

- Yellow-orange skin colour
- Medium size (200 g)
- Flat shape

Tree characteristics

- Medium vigour
- Upright growth habit
- Some male flowers produced

Maturity time

- Early season (early March in south-east Queensland)

Some issues for growers

- Needs cross-pollination with polliniser trees to set good crops
- In warm coastal areas, more susceptible than other varieties to fruit fly, skin blemish, calyx cavity and stem girdler
- Early maturing variety
- Does not store well



Fruit characteristics

- Orange skin colour
- Good size (250 g)
- Flat, lobed square shape
- Few seeds
- Good fruit quality

Tree characteristics

- Low vigour
- Compact growth habit

Maturity time

- Early to mid-season (early to late March in south-east Queensland)

Some issues for growers

- May be grown with or without pollinisers. Polliniser trees generally recommended, despite causing an increase in apex cracking in pollinated fruit. There is an increased risk of fruit drop where cloudy weather or water stress occur during flowering
- Lobed flattened appearance may be a marketing disadvantage



Fuyu

Fruit characteristics

- Orange skin colour
- Medium size (220 g)
- Round, slightly flattened shape
- Excellent fruit quality

Tree characteristics

- Medium vigour
- Fairly upright growth habit

Maturity time

- Mid-season (mid to late April in south-east Queensland)

Some issues for growers

- Polliniser trees generally recommended to set good crops of large fruit. May be grown without pollinisers but there is an increased risk of fruit drop where cloudy weather or water stress occur during flowering
- Stores well
- Most widely known and planted variety throughout the world



Suruga

Fruit characteristics

- Orange-crimson skin colour
- Medium to large size (230 g to 250 g)
- Square domed shape with definite wrinkles at the calyx end

Tree characteristics

- Medium vigour
- Open growth habit

Maturity time

- Late season (late April in south-east Queensland)

Some issues for growers

- Does not require polliniser trees to set good crops
- May suffer a high incidence of misshapen fruit from calyx separation
- Late maturing variety
- Colours up early but needs to be kept on the tree until fully mature to achieve good flavour
- Wrinkling around the calyx makes the fruit unattractive in some markets