

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 We advise readers to take particular note of the areas most likely to be out-of-date and so requiring further research: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- Financial information—costs and returns listed in this publication are out of date.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

Rockmelon and Honeydew Information Kit

Coordinating author

Jerry Lovatt

Contributing author

Ross Wright

Noel Meurant

Lynton Vawdrey

Johnny Hojmark-Andersen

AgriLink
Linking people and
products to better farming
SERIES
QAL 9710

Rockmelon and Honeydew Information Kit

From the Agrilink: your growing guide to better farming series

First published 1997

ISSN 1328-0457

Agrilink concept devised by Noel Vock and Brian Cull.

Agrilink products are proudly produced by the Agrilink Project Team:

Information coordinators — Noel Vock, John James, Jerry Lovatt, Irene Kernot

Publishing production — Loraine Chapman

Editing — Glenis Ayling

Multimedia production — Roy Verge

Customer service — Lourelle Heintjes

National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication data:

Includes index.

ISBN 0 7242 6720 4

1. Melons – Queensland. 2. Melons – Queensland – Marketing.

I. Lovatt, J.L. (Jeremy Leighton), 1948–. II. Wright, Ross. III. Queensland Dept. of Primary Industries.

(Series: Agrilink your growing guide to better farming)

635.6109943

© The State of Queensland, Department of Primary Industries 1997

Copyright protects this publication. Except for purposes permitted by the Copyright Act, reproduction by whatever means is prohibited without the prior written permission of the Department of Primary Industries.

Enquiries should be addressed to:

Agrilink Manager

Department of Primary Industries

Maroochy Horticultural Research Station

PO Box 5269 SMC

Nambour 4560 Q Australia

Phone: (07) 5444 9690 Facsimile: (07) 5444 9694 Int Code: + 61 7

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

Acknowledgements

The authors and kit coordinator are grateful for information and advice provided by Phil Anning, John Bagshaw, Craig Henderson, Mark Herrington, Bill Johnston, Iain Kay, Scott Ledger, John Maltby, Nick Macleod, Rob O'Brien, Paul Simpson, Cameron Tree and Peter Warhurst from the Department of Primary Industries.

Other valuable information was kindly provided by Jim Baker of Kingaroy and John Hall of Crop Tech.

Photographs for the *Problem solver* were kindly provided by John Brown, Tony Cooke, Bernie Franzmann, and the authors and editors of the following publications.

Diseases of vegetable crops, Denis Persley (ed), (1994), Department of Primary Industries, Queensland.

Insect pests of fruit and vegetables, G.A. Swaine, D.A. Ironside and R.J. Corcoran (eds), (1993), Department of Primary Industries, Queensland.

Plant nutrient disorders 3: Vegetable crops, R.G. Weir and G.C. Cresswell, (1993), New South Wales Agriculture and Inkata Press.

Strawberry pests, Broadly, R.H. (1988), Department of Primary Industries, Queensland.

Thanks also to Rose Swete Kelly for providing the artwork, and Ethna Brown for digitising the images.

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 Behnken 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

About the authors

Ross Wright

Ross is a Senior Horticulturist at the Department of Primary Industries' Bowen Horticulture Research Station. He joined the DPI at Bowen in 1969. Ross has had a broad range of experience in the agronomy and plant improvement of a range of vegetable crops. His experience in melon crops has involved research and development work in plant establishment, varietal evaluation, crop scheduling and disease management.

Noel Meurant

Noel is a Senior District Adviser in Horticulture and has been with the DPI for 43 years. He joined the DPI in 1954 at Redlands, working on plant breeding and experimental work in vegetables. Noel then moved to Bowen in 1963, where he was the only horticultural officer for about three years. He was instrumental in securing and developing the Bowen Research Station. He has been based in Bowen for the past 34 years, where he has been heavily involved in all aspects of melon production.

Lynton Vawdrey

Lynton is a Senior Technical Officer (Plant Protection) with the Centre for Wet Tropics Agriculture, South Johnstone. After joining the DPI in 1975 he established and operated a disease diagnostic service for Bowen and Burdekin growers and researched powdery mildew fungicide resistance in melons. This research led to a resistance management strategy based primarily on the use of the protectant fungicide Morestan. In Bundaberg he evaluated fungicides and varieties for the control of gummy stem blight of rockmelon. In collaboration with plant breeders in Bowen, a previously unknown source of resistance to gummy stem blight was identified and a breeding program was started.

Johnny Hojmark-Andersen

Johnny joined the DPI in 1996 as an Extension Horticulturist. He has spent the past two years working with growers in the Burdekin region of north Queensland. Much of this work has involved the development of the melon industry in this region. He has worked closely with the melon industry on variety development and selection, pest and disease control, improving the agronomic practices for melon growing, postharvest quality improvement and marketing. Johnny is currently working on a number of projects including 'Management of pest constraints to quality production of melons' and 'Melon quality management training'.

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, particularly vegetables, and specialising in cucurbit crops. Jerry joined the Agrilink project team in 1993 and is now responsible for the development of information packages for vegetable crops.