

# Should I grow wildflowers? information kit

Reprint – information current in 2000



## 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 2000. We advise readers to take particular note of the areas most likely to be out-of-date and so requiring further research: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 APVMA [www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.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- Financial information—costs and returns listed in this publication are out of date.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 2000. 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 wildflower 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

# *Machinery &* **EQUIPMENT**

*The machinery and equipment that is needed on a wildflower farm will depend on the size of the enterprise. Some items are optional but they make management easier by increasing production flexibility.*

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## Size of enterprise

The machinery and equipment required will depend on the size of the enterprise. Machinery, equipment and facilities for small-scale wildflower production are shown on page 85. Items that are considered essential are listed in normal type; those that are optional are in *italic* type. You may be able to hire equipment or buy second-hand equipment to reduce capital outlays. Small growers would benefit from the use of contractors to undertake the initial land preparation, thus avoiding the purchase of a large tractor and heavy cultivation equipment.

The optional machinery and equipment makes management easier by increasing production flexibility. This equipment is considered essential in a larger enterprise. The keeping qualities of wildflowers will be extended by correct postharvest treatments, on-farm cool storage and moving them in refrigerated transport.

The capital outlay (excluding land) required will vary depending on the existing resources on a property, however for the eucalypt, kangaroo paw, *Protea*, rice flower and waxflower budgets it would be between \$80 000 and \$150 000. This would include a packing shed, cold room, fencing, windbreaks, irrigation (pumps), fertiliser injection system, machinery (tractor, slasher, sprayer, vehicle) and sundries. Savings can be achieved if you have particular skills (such as being a builder or plumber) and you are not costing your own labour.

more info



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ALENA McMAH

Tractor and trailer to quickly move harvested stems from the field to the packing shed

## **Machinery, equipment and facilities needed**

Optional equipment is in *italics*.

### **Machinery**

- Tractor, 40 to 60 hP
- Cultivation equipment (scarifier, bedformer or grader blade, rotary hoe)
- *Slasher (mower)*
- *Fertiliser applicator or fertigation equipment*
- Sprayer (separate tanks for herbicide and pesticide preferred). Hand knapsack or tractor-mounted according to need.
- Farm vehicle (to transport product, supplies and people to and from the field)
- Trailer or other means of moving flowers from the field
- Separate delivery vehicle, preferably refrigerated, may be needed if no pick-up service is available to transport product to market
- *Four-wheel motor bike (makes it easier to inspect and manage the plantings)*
- *Second tractor (for flexibility in managing the crop).*

### **Equipment**

- Irrigation system including trickle irrigation, pump, headworks and piping
- Filters for water supply, pumps
- *Chlorinators*
- Fencing
- *Frost alarm or solenoid controlled automatic watering system (may be useful in some circumstances on more tolerant species in moderately frost susceptible areas)*
- Strong secateurs (pressure pump operated for woody species) or pruners (ratchet is preferable), pruning saws, bunch cutters, gloves
- Dipping tanks
- Bunching and grading benches
- Packing and boxing benches
- Scales for weighing bunches
- Scales for weighing chemicals
- Safety equipment for handling chemicals
- Large buckets for storing and pulsing product.

### **Facilities**

- Packing shed with toilet and washroom areas
- *Cool room (high humidity, forced-air cooling)—may be hired for the season*
- Office (administration area with telephone and facsimile)
- Lockable chemical store
- Fertiliser storage area

- *Area to maintain new planting stock.*

Not all growers have a designated area for new planting stock, but at the very least it is good insurance and becomes essential if the planting out of new stock is delayed. This can easily occur if the ground is not ready due to too high or too low soil moisture levels, inadequate soil preparation, prolonged poor weather, labour not being available or if plants need rehabilitation.

The facility will need shade and wind protection, benches to keep stock away from contaminated ground water, a well-drained, sealed floor area (such as blue metal screenings or concrete) and access to good quality, uncontaminated water for irrigation.