

# Brassica information kit

Reprint – information current in 2004



## 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 2004. We advise readers to take particular note of the areas most likely to be out-of-date and so requiring further research: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- Financial information—costs and returns listed in this publication are out of date.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 2004. 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 brassica 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



# *Contacts and* **REFERENCES**

*Want more information? This section helps direct you to other important providers and sources of brassica information. The Contacts directory contains the names and contact details of people and organisations serving the brassica industry. The References section contains a list of information that is useful reading for anyone involved in the industry.*

## **Contacts** **276**

*Grower associations, special product suppliers, market information, consultants and technical information services*

## **References** **289**

*Books, articles, journals, magazines, reports and internet sites*



## Contacts

*The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and the authors give no warranty as to the quality or suitability of goods or services provided by companies and businesses listed in this book.*

*Names are provided solely for helping readers to make contact with individuals and organisations serving the brassica industry. Inclusion of a person or organisation does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries or the authors, nor does it endorse a particular person or organisation over others not mentioned. The authors regret any omissions.*

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## Grower associations

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### Queensland associations

#### Growcom

Floor 1, St Pauls Terrace  
PO Box 202  
FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006  
Ph: (07) 3620 3844; Fax: (07) 3620 3880  
Members hotline: 1800 654 222  
E-mail: [info@growcom.com.au](mailto:info@growcom.com.au)  
Web: [www.growcom.com.au](http://www.growcom.com.au)

#### Vegetable Industry Development Officer (Queensland)

Mathew Dent  
Floor 1, St Pauls Terrace  
PO Box 202  
FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006  
Ph: (07) 3620 3844; Fax: (07) 3620 3880  
Mobile: 0408 135 042  
E-mail: [mdent@growcom.com.au](mailto:mdent@growcom.com.au)  
Web: [www.growcom.com.au](http://www.growcom.com.au)

### National associations

#### AUSVEG

RMB 5307  
STRATHBOGIE VIC 3666  
Ph: (03) 5790 5247; Fax: (03) 5790 5259

#### Horticulture Australia Limited

Level 1, 50 Carrington Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000  
Ph: (02) 8295 2300; Fax: (02) 8295 2399  
E-mail: [info@horticulture.com.au](mailto:info@horticulture.com.au)  
Web: [www.horticulture.com.au](http://www.horticulture.com.au)

### Organic grower associations

Note: These organisations do not have the resources to provide a general advisory service about organic production. Their main function is to provide information about certification standards and processes. Special services are also provided to members after joining. Kits containing information on membership and certification standards and processes are available for purchase.

#### Bio-Dynamic Research Institute

c/- Post Office  
POWELLTOWN VIC 3797  
Ph: (03) 5966 7333; Fax: (03) 5966 7433

#### Biological Farmers of Australia (BFA)

PO Box 530  
CHERMSIDE QLD 4032  
Ph: (07) 3350 5716; Fax: (07) 3350 5996  
E-mail: [info@bfa.com.au](mailto:info@bfa.com.au)  
Web: [www.bfa.com.au](http://www.bfa.com.au)

#### National Association for Sustainable Agriculture Australia Ltd

(NASAA)  
PO Box 768  
STIRLING SA 5152  
Ph: (08) 8370 8455; Fax: (08) 8370 8381  
E-mail: [enquiries@nasaa.com.au](mailto:enquiries@nasaa.com.au)  
Web: [www.nasaa.com.au](http://www.nasaa.com.au)

#### Organic Federation of Australia

(Australia's Organic Industry Peak Body)  
Suite 502 'Park Place'  
3 Waverly Street  
Bondi Junction  
SYDNEY NSW 2022  
Ph: (02) 9340 7808; Fax: (02) 9340 7807  
Email: [info@ofa.org.au](mailto:info@ofa.org.au)  
Web: [www.ofa.org.au](http://www.ofa.org.au)

#### Organic Food Chain Pty Ltd

PO Box 2390  
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350  
Ph: (07) 4637 2600; Fax: (07) 4696 7689  
E-mail: [ofc@organicfoodchain.com.au](mailto:ofc@organicfoodchain.com.au)

## Seed suppliers

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#### Bejo Seeds Pty Ltd

PO Box 5627  
CRANBOURNE VIC 3977  
Ph: (03) 9782 2811; Fax: (03) 9782 2445

**Charlcon Seeds**

220 Eighth Drive  
 AUSTRAL NSW 2171  
 Ph: (02) 9606 0522; Fax: (02) 9606 9817  
 E-mail: charlcon@hotmail.net.au

**Fairbanks Selected Seed Company Pty Ltd**

542 Footscray Road  
 FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011  
 Ph: (03) 9689 4500; Fax: (03) 9687 7089  
 Web: www.fairbanks.com.au

**Henderson Seeds**

PO Box 118  
 BULLEEN VIC 3105  
 Ph: (03) 9850 2266; Fax: (03) 9850 6794

**Lefroy Valley (Queensland)**

PO Box 7506  
 Toowoomba Mail Centre  
 TOOWOOMBA QLD 4352  
 Ph: (07) 4635 2099; Fax: (07) 4635 2138  
 Web: www.lefroyvalley.com.au

**Rijk Zwaan Australia Pty Ltd**

PO Box 284  
 DAYLESFORD VIC 3460  
 Ph: (03) 5348 9000; Fax: (03) 5348 5530  
 E-mail: vegieseeds@rijkszwaan.com.au

**Seminis Vegetable Seeds**

Suite 3, upstairs  
 77 Upper Heidelberg Road  
 IVANHOE VIC 3077  
 Ph: (03) 9499 9800; Fax: (03) 9499 9199  
 Web: www.seminis.com

**South Pacific Seeds**

102 Andrew Street  
 WYNNUM QLD 4178  
 Ph: (07) 3393 3766; Fax: (07) 3893 1522  
 E-mail: infoupdate@spseed.com.au  
 Web: www.southpacificseeds.com.au

**Syngenta Seeds**

Locked Bag 1335  
 DANDENONG SOUTH VIC 3164  
 Ph: (03) 9706 3033; Fax: (03) 9706 3182

**Terranova Seeds Pty Ltd**

13/19 Chifley Street  
 SMITHFIELD NSW 2164  
 Ph: (02) 9725 1088; Fax: (02) 9725 1066

**Seedling nurseries**

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In south-east Queensland, there are two major seedling nurseries servicing the brassica industry. Check the yellow pages for seedling nurseries in your local area.

**Quickstart Seedlings**

811 Tenthill Creek Road  
 GATTON QLD 4343  
 Ph: (07) 5462 7227; Fax: (07) 5462 7377

**Withcott Seedlings**

PO Box 9145  
 WITHCOTT QLD 4352  
 Ph: (07) 4630 3372; Fax: (02) 4630 3551  
 Web: www.wseedlings.com.au

**Farm chemicals**

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**AVCARE Ltd**

National Association for Crop Protection & Animal Health  
 Locked Bag 916  
 CANBERRA ACT 2601  
 Ph: (02) 6230 6399; Fax: (02) 6230 6355  
 E-mail: info@avcare.org.au  
 Web: www.avcare.org.au

**Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicines Authority**

(The APVMA is the National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals)  
 PO Box E240  
 KINGSTON ACT 2604  
 Ph: (02) 6272 5852; Fax: (02) 6272 4753  
 E-mail: contact@apvma.gov.au  
 Web: www.apvma.gov.au

**ChemClear**

(A collection and disposal service for unwanted rural chemicals)

GPO Box 816

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Ph: 1800 008 182; Fax: (02) 6230 6710

E-mail: [info@chemclear.com.au](mailto:info@chemclear.com.au)

Web: [www.chemclear.com.au](http://www.chemclear.com.au)

**drumMUSTER (national office)**

GPO 816

CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Ph: (02) 6230 6712; Fax: (02) 6230 6713

E-mail: [drummuster@drummuster.com.au](mailto:drummuster@drummuster.com.au)

Web: [www.drummuster.com.au](http://www.drummuster.com.au)

**John Whitehead**

Farm chemicals consultant

172 Bourbong Street

CHAPEL HILL QLD 4069

Ph: (07) 3378 6552

**ChemCert Australia**

For training in pesticide application contact ChemCert to find your nearest accredited trainer.

**ChemCert Training Qld Inc**

Ph: (07) 5460 1295

E-mail: [chemcertqld@bigpond.com.au](mailto:chemcertqld@bigpond.com.au)

**ChemCert Australia National Office**

E-mail: [national@chemcert.org.au](mailto:national@chemcert.org.au)

Web: [www.chemcert.org.au](http://www.chemcert.org.au)

**Farm chemical supplies**

Check the yellow pages for suppliers of chemicals/fertilisers in your local area.

**Farm safety**

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For information on workplace health and safety and the Managing Farm Safety Program:

**Farmsafe Queensland**

The Queensland head office is located in Townsville

PO Box 785

THURINGOWA QLD 4817

Ph: (07) 4774 0522; Fax: (07) 4774 0289

Freecall: 1800 818 006

E-mail: [jcupples@farmsafe.com.au](mailto:jcupples@farmsafe.com.au)

Web: [www.farmsafe.com.au](http://www.farmsafe.com.au)

**Farmsafe Australia**

The national head office is located in Moree, NSW

Ph: (02) 6752 8218

E-mail: [mail@farmsafe.org.au](mailto:mail@farmsafe.org.au)

Web: [www.farmsafe.org.au](http://www.farmsafe.org.au)

**Pest animal, bird and vermin control****Environmental Protection Agency/Queensland Parks and Wildlife**

Central Office

160 Ann Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

Ph: 07 3227111

Web: [www.env.qld.gov.au](http://www.env.qld.gov.au)

For information on controlling native animals and wildlife permits:

Ecoaccess Customer Service Unit

Ph: 1300 868 326

**Department of Natural Resources, Mining and Energy (NRM&E)**

For information on pest animal and weed control.

Ph: (07) 3896 3111

Web: [www.dpi.nrme.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nrme.qld.gov.au)

**Diagnostic services**

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**Biological Crop Protection**

Dr G. Stirling

3601 Moggill Road

MOGGILL QLD 4070

Ph: (07) 3202 7419; Fax: (07) 3202 8033

Mobile: 0412 083 489

E-mail: [biolcrop@powerup.com.au](mailto:biolcrop@powerup.com.au)

**Crop Health Services**

Institute for Horticultural Development  
DPI Victoria  
Private Bag 15  
KNOXFIELD VIC 3176  
SOUTH EASTERN MAIL CENTRE  
Ph: (03) 9210 9356; Fax: (03) 9800 3521

**GrowHelp Australia**

PO Box 327  
CLEVELAND QLD 4163  
Ph: (07) 3824 9526; Fax: (07) 3286 3094  
E-mail: [growhelp@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:growhelp@dpi.qld.gov.au)  
Web: [www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au)

**Plant Health Diagnostic Services**

Forest Road  
ORANGE NSW 2800  
Ph: (02) 6391 3843; Fax: (02) 6391 3899  
E-mail: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

## Suppliers of beneficial insects, traps and lures

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Australasian Biological Control (ABC), the association of beneficial arthropod producers, maintains a list of suppliers of beneficial insects on their website:

[www.goodbugs.org.au](http://www.goodbugs.org.au)

**Beneficial Bug Co.**

PO Box 436  
RICHMOND NSW 2753  
Ph: (02) 4570 1331; Fax: (02) 4578 3979  
E-mail: [info@beneficialbugs.com.au](mailto:info@beneficialbugs.com.au)  
Web: [www.beneficialbugs.com.au](http://www.beneficialbugs.com.au)

**Biological Services**

PO Box 501  
LOXTON SA 5333  
Ph: (08) 8584 6977; Fax: (08) 8584 5057  
E-mail: [fruitdrs@sa.ozland.net.au](mailto:fruitdrs@sa.ozland.net.au)

**Bio-Protection**

PO Box 384  
KILMORE VIC 3764

Ph: (03) 5781 0033; Fax: (03) 5781 0044  
E-mail: [rcoy@hyperlink.com.au](mailto:rcoy@hyperlink.com.au)

**BioResources Pty Ltd**

PO Box 578  
SAMFORD QLD 4520  
Ph: (07) 3289 4919; Fax: (07) 3289 4918  
E-mail: [richard@bioresources.com.au](mailto:richard@bioresources.com.au)  
Web: [www.bioresources.com.au](http://www.bioresources.com.au)

**BioWorks Pty Ltd**

PO Box 203  
NAMBUCCA HEADS NSW 2448  
Ph: (02) 6568 3555  
E-mail: [bioworks@tsn.cc](mailto:bioworks@tsn.cc)

**Bugs for Bugs**

Bowen Street  
MUNDUBBERA QLD 4626  
Ph: (07) 4165 4663; Fax: (07) 4165 4626  
E-mail: [info@bugsforbugs.com.au](mailto:info@bugsforbugs.com.au)  
Web: [www.bugsforbugs.com.au](http://www.bugsforbugs.com.au)

**Horticultural Crop Monitoring**

PO Box 3725  
CALOUNDRA QLD 4551  
Ph/Fax: (07) 5491 4662  
E-mail: [pjones@hotkey.net.au](mailto:pjones@hotkey.net.au)

**IPM Technologies**

PO Box 600  
HURSTBRIDGE VIC 3099  
Ph: (03) 9710 1554; Fax: (03) 9710 1354  
E-mail: [ipmtechnologies@bigpond.com](mailto:ipmtechnologies@bigpond.com)

**Traps and lures**

Entosol (Australia) Pty Ltd (AgriSense agent)  
Roger Allanson  
PO Box 28  
ROSELANDS NSW 2196  
Ph: (02) 9758 4552; Fax: (02) 9758 4882  
E-mail: [sales@entosol.com.au](mailto:sales@entosol.com.au)  
Web: [www.entosol.com.au](http://www.entosol.com.au)

**Texas (Scentry traps)**

Web: [www.scentry.com](http://www.scentry.com)

## **Soil, plant, water and product testing services**

The National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) is the Government-endorsed provider of accreditation for laboratories and similar testing facilities. Contact NATA for assistance with choosing an accredited laboratory.

### **National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)**

Brisbane Office  
80 Jephson Street  
TOOWONG QLD 4066  
Ph: (07) 3870 3844; Fax: (07) 3870 4570  
Web: [www.nata.asn.au](http://www.nata.asn.au)

### **Soil, plant and water testing**

#### **Casco Agritech Laboratory Services**

PO Box 549  
214 McDougall Street  
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350  
Ph: (07) 4633 0599; Fax: (07) 4633 0711  
E-mail: [info@casco.com.au](mailto:info@casco.com.au)  
Web: [www.casco.com.au](http://www.casco.com.au)

#### **Crop Tech Laboratories Pty Ltd**

410 Langbeckers East Road  
BUNDABERG QLD 4670  
Ph: (07) 4155 6344; Fax: (07) 4155 6656  
E-mail: [croptech@croptech.au](mailto:croptech@croptech.au)  
Web: [www.croptech.com.au](http://www.croptech.com.au)

#### **Incitec Pivot Ltd**

GPO Box 1322L  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001  
Ph: (03) 8694 4400; Fax: (03) 8695 4419  
Toll free: 1800 803 453  
Web: [www.incitecpivot.com.au](http://www.incitecpivot.com.au)

#### **Simmonds & Bistow Pty Ltd**

40 Reginald Street  
ROCKLEA QLD 4106  
Ph: (07) 3710 9100; Fax: (07) 3710 9199  
E-mail: [david@simmondsbristow.com.au](mailto:david@simmondsbristow.com.au)

## **Microbial and chemical testing—product and water**

#### **Casco Agritech Laboratory Services**

PO Box 549  
214 McDougall Street  
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350  
Ph: (07) 4633 0599; Fax: (07) 4633 0711  
E-mail: [info@casco.com.au](mailto:info@casco.com.au)  
Web: [www.casco.com.au](http://www.casco.com.au)

#### **Centre for Food Technology**

19 Hercules Street  
HAMILTON QLD 4007  
Ph: (07) 3406 8555; Fax: (07) 3406 8665  
Web: [www.dpi.qld.gov.au/food](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/food)

#### **Crop Health Services**

Institute for Horticultural Development  
DPI Victoria  
Private Bag 15  
KNOXFIELD VIC 3176  
SOUTH EASTERN MAIL CENTRE  
Ph: (03) 9210 9356; Fax: (03) 9800 3521

#### **Food and Agriculture Laboratories of Australia Pty Ltd**

41 Rosedale Street  
COOPERS PLAINS QLD 4108  
Ph: (07) 3345 4566; Fax: (07) 3345 4871

#### **Queensland Health Scientific Services**

39 Kessels Road  
COOPERS PLAINS QLD 4108  
Ph: (07) 3274 9111; Fax: (07) 3274 9119  
Web: [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au)

#### **Simmonds & Bistow Pty Ltd**

40 Reginald Street  
ROCKLEA QLD 4106  
Ph: (07) 3710 9100; Fax: (07) 3710 9199  
E-mail: [david@simmondsbristow.com.au](mailto:david@simmondsbristow.com.au)

#### **Symbio Laboratories**

47 Manilla Street  
EAST BRISBANE QLD 4169  
Ph: (07) 3391 7558; Fax: (07) 3391 6160  
E-mail: [symbio@powerup.com.au](mailto:symbio@powerup.com.au)



## Quality assurance and environmental management

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### Enviroveg

National Program Manager

Ph: 03 9544 8098

Web: [www.enviroveg.org](http://www.enviroveg.org)

Mailing address:

AUSVEG

Suite 9

756 Blackburn Road

CLAYTON NORTH VIC 3168

### EurepGAP

Contact the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Ph: 02 6272 3317

E-mail: [eurepgap@daff.gov](mailto:eurepgap@daff.gov)

Web: [www.eurep.org](http://www.eurep.org)

### Farmcare Code of Practice

Growcom (previously Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers)

Floor 1, St Pauls Terrace

PO Box 202

FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006

Ph: (07) 3620 3825; Fax: (07) 3620 3880

Members hotline: 1800 654 222

E-mail: [info@growcom.com.au](mailto:info@growcom.com.au)

Web: [www.growcom.com.au](http://www.growcom.com.au)

### Food Operations

7 Leeds Street

RHODES NSW 2138

Ph: (02) 9736 8266

E-mail: [training@foodoperations.com.au](mailto:training@foodoperations.com.au)

Web: [www.foodoperations.com.au](http://www.foodoperations.com.au)

### Freshcare Ltd

PO Box 247

SYDNEY MARKETS NSW 2129

Ph: (02) 9764 3244; Fax: (02) 9764 2776

E-mail: [freshcare@freshmarkets.com.au](mailto:freshcare@freshmarkets.com.au)

Web: [www.freshcare.com.au](http://www.freshcare.com.au)

### ISO 9002 and ISO 14001

Contact Standards Australia

Ph: 1300 654 646

Web: [www.standards.com.au](http://www.standards.com.au)

### SQF 2000<sup>CM</sup> and SQF 2000<sup>CM</sup>

Contact the Australian Information Desk

Ph: 1800 77 33 77

E-mail: [info@sqfi.com](mailto:info@sqfi.com)

Web: [www.sqfi.com](http://www.sqfi.com)

### Woolworths Quality Assurance Standard (WQA)

Contact a Woolworths buyer or merchandise manager.

Web [www.woolworths.com.au](http://www.woolworths.com.au)

## Market information

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### Ausmarket Consultants

The Ausmarket Consultants group offers historic and current fruit and vegetable market price information, market intelligence, outturn reporting and product assessment. Participants in the network operate separate businesses within Australia's major markets. Details can be found on their web site:

Web: [www.ausmarket.net.au](http://www.ausmarket.net.au)

Individual members of the network are:

#### Brisbane

##### Market Information Services

PO Box 229

BRISBANE MARKET QLD 4106

Ph: (07) 3379 4576; Fax: (07) 3379 4103

Mobile: 0417 712 427

E-mail: [info@ausmarket.net.au](mailto:info@ausmarket.net.au)

##### Recorded market reports

Infocall: 1902 262 580 (\$2.75 per minute, covers faxed reports from Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney).

##### Brisbane Market Produce Surveyors

PO Box 229

BRISBANE MARKET QLD 4106

Ph: (07) 3379 4576; Fax: (07) 3379 4103

Mobile: 0418 713 688

E-mail: [info@ausmarket.net.au](mailto:info@ausmarket.net.au)

**Adelaide**

SAFF Market Intelligence Pty Ltd  
 PO Box 6014  
 ADELAIDE SA 5000  
 Ph: (08) 8349 6480; Fax: (08) 8349 5894  
 Mobile: 0419 868 265  
 E-mail: bbishop@saff.com.au

**Melbourne**

Melbourne Market Reporting Service  
 (DataFresh)  
 Box 170 Melbourne Markets  
 FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011  
 Ph: (03) 9689 3444; Fax: (03) 9689 3411  
 Mobile: 0411 117 578  
 E-mail: info@datafresh.com.au

**Rudge Produce Systems Pty Ltd**

Box 177 Melbourne Markets  
 WEST MELBOURNE VIC 3003  
 Ph: (03) 9689 1234; Fax: (03) 9689 1232  
 Mobile: 0419 335 802  
 E-mail: administration@rudgeproduce.com.au

**Perth**

West Coast Produce Consultants  
 c/- Perth Market Authority  
 Mail Point 1, Market City  
 280 Bannister Road  
 CANNING VALE WA 6155  
 Ph: (08) 9455 2900; Fax: (08) 9455 2902  
 Market reports: 1900 983 304 (recording); 75c  
 per minute

**Sydney**

The Sydney Market Reporting Service &  
 Sydney Produce Surveyors Pty Ltd  
 PO Box 350  
 FRENCHS FOREST NSW 2086  
 Ph: (02) 9746 3437; Fax: (02) 9746 1075  
 Mobile: 0416 108 639  
 E-mail: cqs@accsoft.com.au

**Resolving payment and other disputes**

If you have a disagreement about payment for produce, or other matters relating to the retail grocery industry, the Retail Grocery Industry Ombudsman (RGIO) may be able to help.

The RGIO is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources and is responsible for assisting industry participants in the retail grocery sector resolve commercial disputes. The industry includes fruit and vegetables, dairy, meat, eggs, flowers, fish, cotton, grains etc. Common disputes are over payment and/or contractual terms between growers, packers, transporters, wholesalers, retailers and/or exporters.

The RGIO and his staff may be telephoned for advice and will formally respond to all queries and dispute notifications within five working days of a written application being lodged. Contact details for the Ombudsman are:

**Retail Grocery Industry Ombudsman (RGIO)**

GPO Box 1422  
 SYDNEY NSW 2001  
 Ph: 1800 004 444 (Free call)  
 Fax: 1300 760 220  
 E-mail: ombudsman@rgio.com.au  
 Web: www.rgio.com.au

**Wholesaler information**

If you want a list of registered farm produce commercial sellers the following contacts should be helpful.

**Australian Chamber of Fruit and Vegetables Ind.**

PO Box 6  
 SYDNEY MARKETS NSW 2129,  
 Ph: (02) 9764 3244; Fax: (02) 9764 2776  
 E-mail: thechamber@freshmarkets.com.au  
 Web: www.freshmarkets.com.au  
 (lists the contact details for the Chamber in each market)

**Adelaide**

Adelaide Produce Markets Ltd  
 Diagonal Road  
 POORAKA SA 5095  
 Ph: (08) 8349 4493; Fax: (08) 8349 6574  
 E-mail: apml@adelaidemarkets.com.au  
 Web: www.adelaidemarkets.com.au

### South Australian Chamber of Fruit and Vegetables Industries

c/- Adelaide Produce Markets Ltd  
Diagonal Road  
POORAKA SA 5095  
Ph: (08) 8349 4528; Fax: (08) 8260 5922

### Brisbane

Brisbane Markets Ltd  
PO Box 80  
BRISBANE MARKETS QLD 4106  
Ph: (07) 3379 1062; Fax: (07) 3379 4903  
Marketline: 1800 631 002  
E-mail: admin@brisbanemarkets.com.au  
Web: www.brisbanemarket.com.au

### Brismark

PO Box 70  
BRISBANE MARKETS QLD 4106  
Ph: (07) 3379 3061; Fax: (07) 3379 3792  
E-mail: brismark@brismark.com.au  
Web: www.brismark.com.au

### Melbourne

Melbourne Market Authority  
Box 1  
WEST MELBOURNE VIC 3003  
Ph: (03) 9258 6100; Fax: (03) 9687 7714  
Email: info@melbournemarkets.com.au  
Web: www.melbournemarkets.com.au

### Victorian Chamber of Fresh Produce Wholesalers Inc.

(Trading as Fresh State)  
PO Box 113  
FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011  
Ph: (03) 9689 3233; Fax: (03) 9689 9223  
E-mail: vicchamber@freshstate.com.au  
Web: www.freshmarkets.com.au

### Perth

Perth Market Authority  
Mail Point 1, Market City  
CANNING VALE WA 6155  
Ph: (08) 9455 2900; Fax: (08) 9455 2902  
E-mail: pma@perthmarket.com.au  
Web: www.perthmarket.com.au/  
produceinfoframe.htm

### West Australian Chamber of Fruit and Vegetables Industries

PO Box 1464  
CANNING VALE DC WA 6970  
Ph: (08) 9455 2742; Fax: (08) 9455 4923

### Sydney

Sydney Markets Ltd  
PO Box 2  
SYDNEY MARKETS NSW 2129  
Ph: (02) 9325 6200; Fax: (02) 9325 6288  
E-mail: info@sydneymarkets.com.au  
Web: www.sydneymarkets.com.au

### NSW Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries Inc.

PO Box 6  
SYDNEY MARKETS NSW 2129  
Ph: (02) 9764 3244; Fax: (02) 9764 2776  
E-mail: nswchamber@freshmarkets.com.au

## Export associations

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### Australian Horticultural Exporters Association

Institute of Horticultural Development  
Private Bag 15  
FERNTREE GULLY DELIVERY CENTRE  
VIC 3156  
Ph: (03) 9210 9380; Fax: (03) 9210 9381  
E-mail: ahea@ahea.com.au  
Web: www.ahea.com.au

## AQIS offices

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For information on exporting brassicas contact an export inspector at the closest office of the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The address and contact numbers for state offices are listed below, or  
Freecall 1800 020 504

### Adelaide

PO Box 63  
Port Adelaide SA 5015  
Ph: (08) 8305 9700; Fax: (08) 8305 9825

**Brisbane**

GPO Box 778  
BRISBANE QLD 4000  
Ph: (07) 3246 8755; Fax: (07) 3839 9313

**Canberra**

GPO Box 7193  
FYSHWICK ACT 2609  
Ph: (02) 6239 7979; Fax: (02) 6230 7986

**Darwin**

GPO Box 1970  
BERRIMAH NT 0828  
Ph: (08) 8999 2075; Fax: (08) 8999 2108

**Hobart**

PO Box 347  
NORTH HOBART TAS 7002  
Ph: (03) 6233 3626; Fax: (03) 6234 6785

**Melbourne**

PO Box 1006  
TULLAMARINE VIC 3043  
Ph: (03) 8318 6700; Fax: (03) 8318 6701

**Perth**

WA AQIS  
PO Box 1410  
CANNING VALE WA 6970  
Ph: (08) 9311 5333; Fax: (08) 9455 3052

**Sydney**

PO Box 657  
MASCOT NSW 1460  
Ph: (02) 8334 7444; Fax: (02) 8334 7555

## Information on interstate movement provisions

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### Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) and Inspections for interstate produce shipments

For the names of local inspectors and information on interstate requirements, contact the DPI&F Animal and Plant Health Services.

**Senior Operational Support Officer**

Animal and Plant Health Services  
Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries  
GPO Box 46  
BRISBANE QLD 4001  
Ph: (07) 3239 3330; Fax: (07) 3211 3293

**Information on interstate requirements**

Requirements change regularly. To check on latest requirements, here are the contacts for each state.

**New South Wales**

Regulatory Operations Coordinator (Plants)  
Locked Bag 21  
ORANGE NSW 2800  
Ph: (02) 6391 3583; Fax: (02) 6391 3605

**Australian Capital Territory**

Quarantine & Inspection Officer  
Environment ACT  
PO Box 1038  
TUGGERANONG ACT 2901  
Ph: (02) 6207 2265; (02) 6207 2268

**Victoria**

Supervisor Plant Standards  
Department of Primary Industries  
Private Bag 15  
Ferntree Gully Delivery Centre  
KNOXFIELD VIC 3156  
Ph: (03) 9687 5627; Fax: (03) 9687 6746

**Tasmania**

Senior Quarantine Officer  
Quarantine  
Macquarie Wharf Number 1  
Hunter Street  
HOBART TAS 7000  
Ph: (03) 6233 3352; Fax: (03) 6234 6785

**South Australia**

Program Leader—State Quarantine Inspection Service  
Pest Eradication Unit  
46 Prospect Road  
PROSPECT SA 5082  
Ph: (08) 8344 1203; Fax: (08) 8344 6033

**Western Australia****Senior Inspector**

Western Australian Quarantine & Inspection  
Service

PO Box 1410

CANNING VALE WA 6970

Ph: (08) 9311 5333; Fax: (08) 9455 3052

**Northern Territory****Senior Inspector (Interstate Quarantine)**

Primary Industry and Fisheries

Department of Business, Industry and Resource  
Development

PO Box 990

BERRIMAH NT 0801

Ph: (08) 8999 2138; Fax: (08) 8999 2111

**Government services****National**

CSIRO Australia—Scientific and Industrial  
Research

Web: [www.csiro.au](http://www.csiro.au)

**Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Forestry (DAFF)**

Web: [www.affa.gov.au](http://www.affa.gov.au)

**FarmBis Australia**

This program provides financial assistance to  
primary producers to undertake business and  
natural resource management training.

Web: [www.farmbis.gov.au](http://www.farmbis.gov.au)

**State****Queensland**

**Department of Primary Industries and Fish-  
eries (DPI&F)**

GPO Box 46

BRISBANE QLD 4001

E-mail: [callweb@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:callweb@dpi.qld.gov.au)

Web: [www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au)

**Call Centre.** Helps you access DPI&F's informa-  
tion services and products. Queenslanders can  
ring 13 25 23 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to

Friday, excluding public holidays, for the cost of  
a local call. Interstate callers can phone  
(07) 3404 6999.

**GrowSearch.** An information service for produc-  
ers of horticultural crops. Fee-for-service.

Ph: (07) 3821 3784; Fax: (07) 3286 7618

E-mail: [growsearch@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:growsearch@dpi.qld.gov.au)

Web: [www.dpi.qld.gov.au/growsearch](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/growsearch)

**Department of Natural Resources, Mining  
and Energy (NRM&E)**

Ph: (07) 3896 3111

Web: [www.dpi.nrme.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nrme.qld.gov.au)

For information on natural resource manage-  
ment for example soil, water, vegetation, erosion,  
salinity etc.

**Environmental Protection Agency/Queens-  
land Parks and Wildlife**

Ph: (07) 32271111

Web: [www.env.qld.gov.au](http://www.env.qld.gov.au)

For information on environmental planning,  
technical services and management of parks,  
forestry and wildlife.

**New South Wales**

**NSW Department of Primary Industries  
(NSWDPI)**

Locked Bag 21

ORANGE NSW 2800

Ph: (02) 6391 3100; Fax: (02) 6391 3336

E-mail: [nsw.agriculture@agric.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nsw.agriculture@agric.nsw.gov.au)

Web: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

**Victoria**

**Department of Primary Industries (DPI)**

E-mail: [customer.service@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer.service@dpi.vic.gov.au)

Web: [www.dpi.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au)

**Department of Sustainability and Environ-  
ment (DSE)**

E-mail: [customer.service@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer.service@dse.vic.gov.au)

Web: [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au)

**Call Centre.** Helps you access information services and products, from DPI and DSE ring 136 186 from within Australia.

### Tasmania

**Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIWE)**

GPO Box 44

HOBART TAS 7001

Ph: 1300 368 550 (toll free in Australia)

E-mail: FAF.Enquiries@dpiwe.tas.gov.au

Web: www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au

### South Australia

**Department of Primary Industries and Resources (PIRSA)**

GPO Box 397

Adelaide 5001 S A

E-mail: pirsasardi@saugov.sa.gov.au

Web: www.pir.sa.gov.au

### Western Australia

**Department of Agriculture (DAWA)**

Locked Bag 4

BENTLEY DELIVERY CENTRE WA 6983

Ph: (08) 9368 3333

Email: enquiries@agric.wa.gov.au

Web: www.agric.wa.gov.au

### Northern Territory

**Primary Industry and Fisheries—part of the Department of Business, Industry and Resources Development (DBIRD)**

GPO Box 3000

DARWIN NT 0801

Ph: (08) 8999 2292; Fax: (08) 8999 2049

Web: www.nt.gov.au/dbird/dpif

## Agricultural booksellers

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These booksellers specialise in agricultural books.

### DA Information Services

648 Whitehorse Road

MITCHAM VIC 3132

Ph: (03) 9210 7777; Fax: (03) 9210 7788

E-mail: service@dadirect.com.au

Web: www.dadirect.com.au

### DPI&F Publications

GPO Box 46

BRISBANE QLD 4001

Orders—Freecall: 1800 816 541

Fax: (07) 3239 6509

E-mail: books@dpi.qld.gov.au

Web: www.dpi.qld.gov.au/shop

### Granny Smith's Bookshop

156 Onslow Road

SUBIACO WA 6008

Ph: (08) 9381 2880; Fax: (08) 9388 1852

E-mail: grannysmith@iinet.net.au

Web: www.aoi.com.au/granny

### Johima Books

PO Box 226

MENAI CENTRAL NSW 2234

Ph: (02) 9541 4791; Fax: (02) 9543 1710

E-mail: madhu@johima.com.au

Web: www.johima.com.au

### Landlinks Press

PO Box 1139

COLLINGWOOD VIC 3066

Ph: (03) 9662 7666; Fax: (03) 9662 7555

Orders—Freecall 1800 645 051

E-mail: publishing@csiro.au

Web: www.publish.csiro.au

### Morescope Publishing

36 Bridge Street

RICHMOND TAS 7025

Ph: (03) 6260 2094

### DPI Information Centre

PO Box 500

EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Ph: (03) 9637 8325; Fax: (03) 9637 8150

E-mail: customer.service@dpi.vic.gov.au

Web: www.dpi.vic.gov.au

**NSW Department of Primary Industries**

Bookshop

Orange Agricultural Institute

ORANGE NSW 2800

Ph: (02) 6391 3994;

Orders–Freecall: 1800 028 374

Fax: 1800 642 065

E-mail: [bookshop@agric.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bookshop@agric.nsw.gov.au)Web: [www.agric.nsw.gov.au](http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au)**Contacts through the Yellow Pages**

The following Yellow Pages headings cover the main topics for which contacts may be needed. Check the listings under the appropriate heading.

**Seedlings and seed**

Nurseries

Seedsmen

**Chemicals/fertilisers**

Chemicals, agricultural

Chemical suppliers

Fertilisers

Insecticides, herbicides and fungicides

Lime

Soil conditioners and treatments

**Consultants**

Farm and agricultural advisory services

Quality Assurance Services

Horticultural consultants

**Economics and marketing**

Fruit and vegetable wholesalers

Grain and produce

Transport services

**Equipment, irrigation, machinery**

Agricultural machinery

Engineers

Farm contracting services

Farm equipment and supplies

Instruments–scientific

Irrigation

**Pesticides and spraying**

Aerial spraying

Fertiliser and/or insecticide spreading

Protective clothing

Spray equipment and/or supplies

**Postharvest handling and packaging**

Boxes and cartons

Cold room builders/designers

Cold stores

Food processing and/or packing machinery

Fruit and vegetable packing and/or packs

Labels

Polystyrene products

Grain and produce packaging materials

Refrigerated transport trucks and equipment

Scales and weighing equipment



## References

This is not an exhaustive list of references for brassicas. It consists of references and internet sites which the authors recommend as useful sources of information and reading for the brassica grower. If you require more detailed information on a subject, use the literature search facilities available from most libraries.

### DPI&F information products

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#### Books

*Crop weeds of northern Australia*, Wilson, B.J., Hawton, D. & Duff, A.A. (1995), Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland.

*Diseases of vegetable crops*, Persley, D. M. & Cooke, A.W. (eds) (1994), Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland.

*Forced air cooling*, (2nd edn). Watkins, J.B. (1990), Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland.

*Insect pests of fruit and vegetables* (2nd edn), Swaine, G., Ironside, D.A. & Corcoran, R.J. (1992), Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland

*Pesticide application manual* (3rd edn), Banks, A.G., Broadley, R.H., Collinge, M. & Middleton, K. (1990), Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland.

*Poisonous plants: a field guide*, Dowling, R. & McKenzie, R., (1993), Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland.

*Suburban weeds* (3rd edn), Kleinschmidt, H., Holland, A. & Simpson, P. (1997), Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland.

*Water it right—irrigation using tensiometers*, Daniels, J.L., Banks, A.G. & Jamieson, G.I. (1994), Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland.

#### DPI&F notes and web pages

*Broccoli development, yield and quality—importance of temperature*, <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/horticulture/5293.html>

*Emerging plant pests—melon thrips*, <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/health/2774.html>

*Exotic plant pests—white blister of broccoli*, <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/health/10290.html>

*Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA)*, <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/health/4056.html>

*Diamondback moth in selected brassica vegetable crops*, <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/horticulture/1885.html>

*Managing weeds in broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage*, <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/horticulture/4743.html>

*Soil compaction*, [www.dpi.qld.gov.au/fieldcrops/9424.html](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/fieldcrops/9424.html)



*Soil insects in Queensland, identification and management*, [www.dpi.qld.gov.au/fieldcrops/3689.html](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/fieldcrops/3689.html)

*Using conductivity meters in agriculture*, <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/horticulture/3096.html>

### Asian leafy brassica vegetables

*Chinese broccoli*, <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/horticulture/5313.html>

*Chinese mustard*, <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/horticulture/7917.html>

*Choy sum*, <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/horticulture/5312.html>

*Komatsuna*, <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/horticulture/5308.html>

*Mizuna and mibuna*, <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/horticulture/5305.html>

*Mustard greens*, <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/horticulture/5303.html>

*Pak choy*, <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/horticulture/5300.html>

*Tatsoi*, <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/horticulture/7922.html>

DPI&F notes are available on the Internet at: [www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au)  
or on *Prime notes on CD-ROM*

DPI&F information products are available from:  
**DPI&F Publications**  
Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries  
GPO Box 46  
BRISBANE QLD 4001  
Ph: (07) 3239 3163; Freecall: 1800 816 541;  
Fax: (07) 3239 6509  
E-mail: [books@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:books@dpi.qld.gov.au)  
Web: [www.dpi.qld.gov.au/shop](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/shop)

### Other DPI&F products

*Crop weeds of northern Australia CD Rom*, Wilshire, B. et al (2003), Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland.

### Infopest—Agvet CD-ROM and Infopest—MSDS CD-ROM

Available from:

#### Infopest

Animal & Plant Health Services

Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

GPO Box 46

BRISBANE QLD 4001

Ph: (07) 3239 3967; Fax: (07) 3239 3510

E-mail: [infopest@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:infopest@dpi.qld.gov.au)

Web: [www.dpi.qld.gov.au/infopest](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/infopest)

### Other books

*Australian soil fertility manual—Revised edition*, Glendinning J.S., (ed), (1999), Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia, CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Victoria.

*CSIRO Handbook of Australian weeds*, Lazarides, M., Cowley, K. & Hohnen, P. (1997), CSIRO Publishing, Australia.

*Plant analysis—an interpretation manual*, (2nd edn), Reuter, D.J. & Robinson, J.B. (1997), CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Victoria.

Available from:

#### CSIRO Publishing

PO Box 1139,

COLLINGWOOD, VIC 3066

Ph: 1300 788 000 (to order)

*Australian farmers guide to the internet—second edition*, RIRDC

*The New Rural Industries—a handbook for farmers and investors*, Hyde, K. (ed) (1997), RIRDC

Available from:  
**Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation**  
 Level 1, 10 Macquarie Street  
 BARTON ACT 2600  
 Ph: (02) 6272 4539; Fax: (02) 6272 5877  
 Web: [www.rirdc.gov.au/farmersguide](http://www.rirdc.gov.au/farmersguide)

*Export control (fresh fruit and vegetables) orders, Schedule 4, 5 and 25*, (1988) Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra, Australia.

Available from:  
**Australian Government Printing Service**  
 GPO Box 84  
 CANBERRA ACT 2601

*Field guide to pests, diseases and disorders of vegetable brassicas*, Donald, C., Endersby, N., Ridland, P., Porter, I., Lawrence, J. & Ransom, L., (2000), Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.

Quality description language:

- *broccoli*, O'Donnell, D.
- *cauliflower*, Vujovic, S. et. al.
- *cabbage*, Vujovic, S. et. al.
- *Chinese broccoli*, Morgan, W. and Chew, M.
- *Chinese cabbage*, Morgan, W. and Chew, M.
- *Chinese chard*, Morgan, W. and Chew, M.
- *Shanghai Chinese chard*, Morgan, W. and Chew, M.

Available from:  
**DPI Information Centre**  
 PO Box 500  
 EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002  
 Ph: (03) 9637 8325; Fax (03) 9637 8150  
 E-mail: [customer.service@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer.service@dpi.vic.gov.au)  
 Web: [www.dpi.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au)

*Australian weed management systems*, Sindel, B.M. (ed), (2000), R.G. and F.J. Richardson, Meredith, Victoria.

*Integrated pest management for cole crops and lettuce*, Flint, M.L. (ed) (1992), Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California, USA.

*National Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic Produce*, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Canberra.

*Organic agriculture—getting started*, Madge, D. (1995), Agmedia, Melbourne.

*Oriental vegetables*, Waters, C.T., Moragan, W.C. & McGeary, D.J. (1992), Victorian Department of Food and Agriculture.

*Plant nutrient disorders 3, vegetable crops*, Weir, R.G., & Cresswell, G.C. (1994), NSW Agriculture, Inkata Press, Sydney NSW.

*The Australian vegetable growing handbook*, Salvestrin, J. (ed)(1998), Scope Publishing, Frankston, Victoria.

*The good bug book* (2nd edn), Llewellyn, R. (ed) (2002), Integrated Pest Management for Australasian Biological Control Inc., New South Wales.

*Weeds—An illustrated botanical guide to the weeds of Australia*, Auld, B.A. & Medd, R.W. (1992), Inkata Press, Australia.

## Reports

*Asian vegetable industry—a situation assessment*, Hassall and Associates (2003) RIRDC, Publication No 02/168

The above report and a number of other reports on Asian vegetables are available at:

**Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation**  
 Level 1, 10 Macquarie Street  
 BARTON ACT 2600  
 Ph: (02) 6272 4539; Fax: (02) 6272 5877  
 Web: [www.rirdc.gov.au/farmersguide](http://www.rirdc.gov.au/farmersguide)

*Guidelines for implementing EUREGAP for Australian fresh fruit and vegetable producers*, McBride, W. (2004), Australian Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, Canberra.

*Guidelines for on-farm food safety for fresh produce*, Working group on Safety and Quality Systems' Equivalence, (2001), Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Canberra.

Available at:

**Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)**

For the EUREGAP guidelines

Ph: (02) 6272 3317

For the On-farm food safety guidelines

Ph: (02) 6272 4161

E-mail: [foodinfo@affa.gov.au](mailto:foodinfo@affa.gov.au)

Web: [www.daff.gov.au](http://www.daff.gov.au)

## Annual publications

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*Brisbane markets business directory*

Available from:

**Brisbane Market Authority**

PO Box 8

BRISBANE MARKETS QLD 4106

Ph: (07) 3379 1062; Fax: (07) 3379 4903

Web: [www.brisbanemarket.com.au](http://www.brisbanemarket.com.au)

*Prices and throughput for the Brisbane market*

Available from:

**Market Information Services**

PO Box 229

BRISBANE MARKET QLD 4106

Ph: (07) 3379 4576; Fax: (07) 3379 4103;

Mobile: 0417 712 427

E-mail: [info@ausmarket.net.au](mailto:info@ausmarket.net.au)

Web: [www.ausmarket.net.au](http://www.ausmarket.net.au)

*Melbourne markets business directory*

Available from:

**Melbourne Market Authority**

PO Box 1

542 Footscray Road

FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011

Ph: (03) 9258 6100; Fax: (03) 9687 7714

E-mail: [info@mma.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@mma.vic.gov.au)

Web: [www.melbournemarkets.com.au](http://www.melbournemarkets.com.au)

*Sydney markets users guide*

Available from:

**Sydney Market Ltd**

PO Box 2

SYDNEY MARKETS NSW 2129

Ph: (02) 9325 6200; Fax: (02) 9325 6288

E-mail: [sydma@sydneymarkets.com.au](mailto:sydma@sydneymarkets.com.au)

Web: [www.sydneymarkets.com.au](http://www.sydneymarkets.com.au)

*The Sydney markets yearly prices for fresh fruit & vegetables*

Available from:

**The Sydney Market Reporting Service**

PO Box 350

FRENCHS FOREST NSW 2086

Ph: (02) 9746 3437; Fax: (02) 9746 1075;

Mobile: 0416 108 639

E-mail: [cqs@accsoft.com.au](mailto:cqs@accsoft.com.au)

## Journals and magazines

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*American Vegetable Grower*

Available from:

**American Vegetable Grower**

37733 Euclid Avenue

WILLOUGHBY OHIO 44094 USA

*Good Fruit & Vegetables*

Available from:

**Good Fruit & Vegetables**

PO Box 160

PORT MELBOURNE VIC 3207

Ph: (03) 9287 0900; Fax: (03) 9287 0999

Subscriptions: Ph: 1800 035 351

## Useful internet sites

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### Brassica sites

UC IPM Online—Cole Crops—University of California

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/selectnewpest.cole-crops.html>

Brassica projects—Department of Primary Industries Victoria

[www.dpi.vic.gov.au/agvic/ihd/projects/veg-keyproject.htm](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/agvic/ihd/projects/veg-keyproject.htm)

Includes club root project

### Diamondback moth management

Department of Primary Industries, Victoria  
<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/agvic/ihd/projects/dbm.htm>

For the DBM sampling plan, contact the project team or follow the pest & diseases link

South Australian Research and Development Institute <http://www.sardi.sa.gov.au/entomology/index.html>

National DBM resistance management strategy  
 Avcare  
<http://www.avecure.org.au>

International working group for diamondback moth  
<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ent/dbm/>

### Asian vegetables

Access to Asian vegetables—Department of Primary Industries Victoria  
[www.nre.vic.gov.au/trade/asiaveg/](http://www.nre.vic.gov.au/trade/asiaveg/)

Australian New Crops web site—University of Queensland  
<http://www.newcrops.uq.edu.au/>

The New Rural Industries—RIRDC handbook  
[www.rirdc.gov.au/pub/handbook/contents.html](http://www.rirdc.gov.au/pub/handbook/contents.html)

Asian Foods Research Program - Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation  
<http://www.rirdc.gov.au/programs/af.html>

### Other sites

AGRIFOR—The UK's Gateway to Internet Resources in Food, Agriculture and Forestry  
 Web: [www.agrifor.ac.uk](http://www.agrifor.ac.uk)

Austrade—Australia's export and investment facilitation agency:  
 Web: [www.austrade.gov.au](http://www.austrade.gov.au)

Australasian Biological Control:  
 Web: [www.goodbugs.org.au](http://www.goodbugs.org.au)

Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety—the University of Sydney  
 Web: [www.acahs.med.usyd.edu.au](http://www.acahs.med.usyd.edu.au)

Australian Farm & Rural OHS Resources:  
 Web: [www.worksafe.gov.au/OHSInformation/Agriculture](http://www.worksafe.gov.au/OHSInformation/Agriculture)

Australian Government Agricultural Portal:  
 Web: [www.agriculture.gov.au/index.cfm](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/index.cfm)

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA):  
 Web: [www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au)

Australian Quarantine & Inspection Service (AQIS):  
 Web: [www.aqis.gov.au](http://www.aqis.gov.au)

AQIS—export conditions database (phyto):  
 Web: [www.aqis.gov.au/phyto](http://www.aqis.gov.au/phyto)

Avcare, National Association of Crop Production and Animal Health:  
 Web: [www.avecure.org.au](http://www.avecure.org.au)

ChemClear—Farm chemicals:  
 Web: [www.chemclear.com.au](http://www.chemclear.com.au)

Cool chain, South Australian Research and Development Institute:  
 Web: [www.sardi.sa.gov.au/coolchai/index.htm](http://www.sardi.sa.gov.au/coolchai/index.htm)

Crop Protection, The Official Journal of the International Association for the Plant Protection Sciences:  
 Web: [www.elsevier.com/locate/cropro](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/cropro)

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry:  
 Web: [www.affa.gov.au](http://www.affa.gov.au)

Department of Agriculture Western Australia  
 Web: [www.agric.wa.gov.au](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au)

Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy—Fact Sheets:  
 Web: [www.nrm.qld.gov.au/factsheets](http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au/factsheets)

Department of Primary Industries and Resources South Australia

Web: [www.pir.sa.gov.au](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au)

Department of Primary Industries Victoria - Notes information series Web:

[www.dpi.vic.gov.au/notes](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/notes)

drumMUSTER:

Web: [www.drummuster.com.au](http://www.drummuster.com.au)

Entosol (Australia) Pty Ltd (AgriSense agent):

Web: [www.entosol.com.au](http://www.entosol.com.au)

Environmental Protection Agency/ Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Web: [www.env.qld.gov.au/](http://www.env.qld.gov.au/)

Enviroveg:

Web: [www.enviroveg.org](http://www.enviroveg.org)

EUREPGAP:

Web: [www.eurep.org](http://www.eurep.org)

Farmsafe Australia:

Web: [www.farmsafe.org.au](http://www.farmsafe.org.au)

Farmsafe Queensland:

Web: [www.farmsafe.com.au](http://www.farmsafe.com.au)

Food Info Australia—Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Web: [www.affa.gov.au/foodinfo](http://www.affa.gov.au/foodinfo)

Food Operations

Web: [www.foodoperations.com.au](http://www.foodoperations.com.au)

Freshcare

Web: [www.freshcare.com.au](http://www.freshcare.com.au)

Growcom:

Web: [www.growcom.com.au](http://www.growcom.com.au)

Horticulture Australia Limited:

Web: [www.horticulture.com.au](http://www.horticulture.com.au)

Integrated Crop and Pest Management Guidelines for Commercial Vegetable Production—Cornell university:

Web: [www.nysaes.cornell.edu/recommends](http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/recommends)

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)

Web: [www.ifoam.org](http://www.ifoam.org)

ISO 9002 and ISO 14001

Web: [www.standards.com.au](http://www.standards.com.au)

NSW Department of Primary Industries

Web: [www.agric.nsw.gov.au](http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au)

Organic Federation of Australia

Web: [www.ofa.org.au](http://www.ofa.org.au)

Postharvest technology, University of California, Davis:

Web: <http://postharvest.ucdavis.edu>

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service - Environmental Protection Agency

Web: [www.env.qld.gov.au/](http://www.env.qld.gov.au/)

Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority:

Web: [www.qraa.qld.gov.au](http://www.qraa.qld.gov.au)

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation:

Web: [www.rirdc.gov.au](http://www.rirdc.gov.au)

Rural Water Use Efficiency - Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy:

Web: [www.nrme.qld.gov.au/rwue/factsheets.htm#horticulture](http://www.nrme.qld.gov.au/rwue/factsheets.htm#horticulture); [www.nrme.qld.gov/rwue/pdf/factsheets/brassica.pdf](http://www.nrme.qld.gov/rwue/pdf/factsheets/brassica.pdf)

Rural Safety Links:

Web: [www.whs.qld.gov.au/subject/rural.htm#links](http://www.whs.qld.gov.au/subject/rural.htm#links)

SQF 2000<sup>CM</sup> and SQF 2000<sup>CM</sup>

Web: [www.sqfi.com](http://www.sqfi.com)

Standards Australia:

Web: [www.standards.com.au](http://www.standards.com.au)

Sustainable Agriculture Resources—Australian and New Zealand:

Web: [www.une.edu.au/agronomy/weeds/organic/links/aust-nz.html](http://www.une.edu.au/agronomy/weeds/organic/links/aust-nz.html)

Sustainable practices for vegetable production  
in the south, North Carolina State University:  
Web: [www.cals.ncsu.edu/sustainable/peet/  
index.html](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/sustainable/peet/index.html)

Sydney Postharvest Laboratory  
Web: [www.postharvest.com.au](http://www.postharvest.com.au)

Texas (Scentry traps)—USA home page:  
Web: [www.scentry.com](http://www.scentry.com)

University of California—Vegetable Research  
and Information Centre:  
Web: <http://vric.ucdavis.edu>

University of Florida, Institute of Food and  
Agricultural Sciences:  
Web: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

United States Department of Agriculture:  
Web: [www.usda.gov/Agriculture/](http://www.usda.gov/Agriculture/)

Woolworths Quality Assurance Standard  
(WQA)  
[www.woolworths.com.au](http://www.woolworths.com.au)

Workplace health and safety—Queensland:  
Web: [www.whs.qld.gov.au](http://www.whs.qld.gov.au)





# *Before you* **START**

*If you have never grown cabbage, cauliflower or broccoli before, then you will find this section very useful. It is a brief checklist of the essential things you need to know before you start. It will help you make the right decisions. The information here is brief and to the point. We provide more detail on important areas in other sections of the book. Symbols on the left of the page will help you make these links.*

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## A brief overview of the Queensland brassica industry

Official statistics suggest that the Queensland brassica industry is relatively static, although supply tends to fluctuate from year to year. In 2001–02, around 40 000 tonnes of cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli were produced from about 2 800 hectares. Table 1 shows the industry had a farm gate value of about \$21 million and a gross value of around \$32 million.

**Table 1.** The Queensland brassica industry

Crop	Area (ha)	Production (tonnes)	Farm gate value (\$ millions)	Gross value (\$ millions)
Cabbages	366	13,148	2.7	4.7
Cauliflower	693	15,058	4.1	8.2
Broccoli	1758	11,569	14.3	18.8
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2817</b>	<b>39,775</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>31.7</b>

Source: *Australian Bureau of Statistics* 2001–02 estimates

Most Queensland brassicas are grown in the south-eastern corner of the State in the Lockyer Valley, Eastern Darling Downs and the Granite Belt. Small growing areas exist in coastal areas and other horticultural production districts of the state.

The industry primarily supplies the domestic fresh market, either through the central market system or direct to supermarket chains which account for the majority of sales. There are small markets for semi-prepared or semi-processed product (coleslaw, salad and vegetable mixes).

Brassicas from Queensland are sold throughout Australia. Fresh cabbage, cauliflower or broccoli can be sourced from Queensland at any time of the year but the main supply period is from May to September when the Lockyer Valley and Eastern Darling Downs are in full production. During the warmer months, production is centred in the cooler highland areas of the Granite Belt and around Toowoomba.

Returns can vary greatly. Prices are often low during peak production in winter. Summer prices are often high. In regions with warm or hot summers such as the Lockyer Valley, low yields, reduced head quality and pest and disease problems are often not offset by these higher summer prices.

Some larger brassica growers have actively pursued export markets for a number of years with some success. The major overseas markets for Queensland brassicas are south-east Asia and Japan, with \$5.7 million of broccoli, \$1.8 million of cauliflower and smaller quantities of cabbage exported during 2002–03 (Source: *Australian Bureau of Statistics*).

## Know what you are getting into

The average price for broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage varies between seasons, making profitability and cash flow inconsistent and hard to estimate. The market is often oversupplied, particularly during winter and early spring, when returns may be below costs of production.

Consistent yields and quality can be difficult to achieve due to insect pests (for example, diamondback moth), disease problems (for example, head rots) and climatic factors. These include frosts, heat wave conditions or wet weather during harvest. Varieties also perform differently in various growing areas and under different growing conditions.

Growing brassicas is labour intensive, particularly at planting and harvest times, and there can be problems getting a good, reliable labour force.

Successful production requires cool to mild growing conditions, a well-drained soil and reliable irrigation. Capital costs can be high depending on arrangements for harvesting and packing of product. Access to rapid pre-cooling and cold storage facilities is essential for broccoli and highly desirable for cauliflower. Cabbage can be cooled and stored in a conventional cold room.

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**IMPORTANT**  
Do a marketing and business plan. This will give you a more accurate picture of what you are getting into.

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Table 2 lists the some of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) affecting the brassica industry.

**Table 2.** Factors affecting the brassica industry of Queensland

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Staple, well known products	Not suited to warm weather production	Value adding and semi-processing	Overproduction
High nutritional value	Cabbage and cauliflower not fashionable	Health aspects of the product	Lack of irrigation water (drought)
Versatile product	Generic promotions	Targeted promotion	Substantial price fluctuations
Value for money	Competition from southern states in domestic markets	New varieties	Club root
Convenient	Strong competition in export markets	Niche markets, organics, eco-labelling	Insecticide resistance problems
Reliable crop to grow in season with good management	Highly perishable product (broccoli, cauliflower)	New export markets	Labour, packaging and freight costs

## What can you expect to make?

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Yields vary considerably, depending on climatic conditions, pests and diseases, variety, season and planting density. Prices vary greatly, depending on supply and quality.

Cabbages are usually supplied in bulk bins and sold on a per head basis. Sugarloaf cabbages are often sold in waxed fibreboard cartons. Cauliflowers are sold either on a per head basis or, more commonly, in 78L cartons that hold 10 or 12 heads. Broccoli is usually sold in icepacks holding 8 kg of heads or in waxed fibreboard cartons holding 10 kg of product.

Production and marketing costs for cabbages, cauliflower and broccoli vary, depending on yields achieved, the size and efficiency of the operation and the cost structure of the business. Each farm is different. The estimates given in the following sections are intended only to illustrate the level of costs involved for growing, harvesting and marketing the different brassica crops.

Of the three crops, cauliflower is by far the riskiest crop to grow as production costs are high and yields can vary substantially. Cauliflowers also require a fair amount of agronomic and management expertise to grow successfully. Cabbage and broccoli are easier to grow. However, since broccoli is the more perishable of the three products, timeliness of harvest and access to adequate cooling facilities complicate crop management.

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### IMPORTANT

Estimate costs for your situation. See *Economics of production* in Chapter 4, Key issues.

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## Cabbage yields and prices

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Marketable yields commonly range from 14 000 to 18 000 heads per hectare.

Price can range from \$0.20 to \$4.00 or more per cabbage head, but is usually in the \$0.60 to \$2.00 range. Figures 1 to 3 show average prices for ballhead cabbages on the Brisbane and Sydney markets and throughput of all cabbages at the Brisbane market for 2001 to 2003. The bigger the variation above or below the average price, the greater the opportunity or risk involved.




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Market prices  
Chapter 6 page 282

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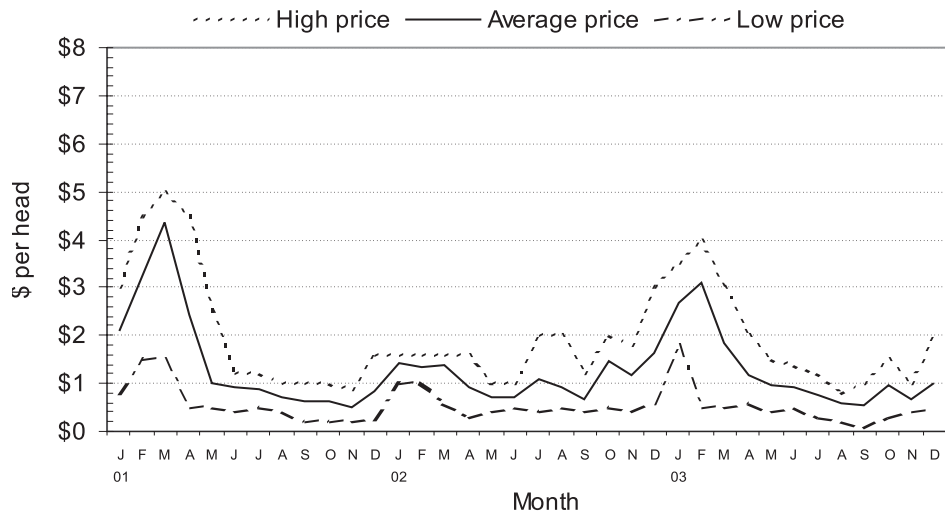


Figure 1. Average monthly price for ballhead cabbage on the Brisbane market 2001 to 2003

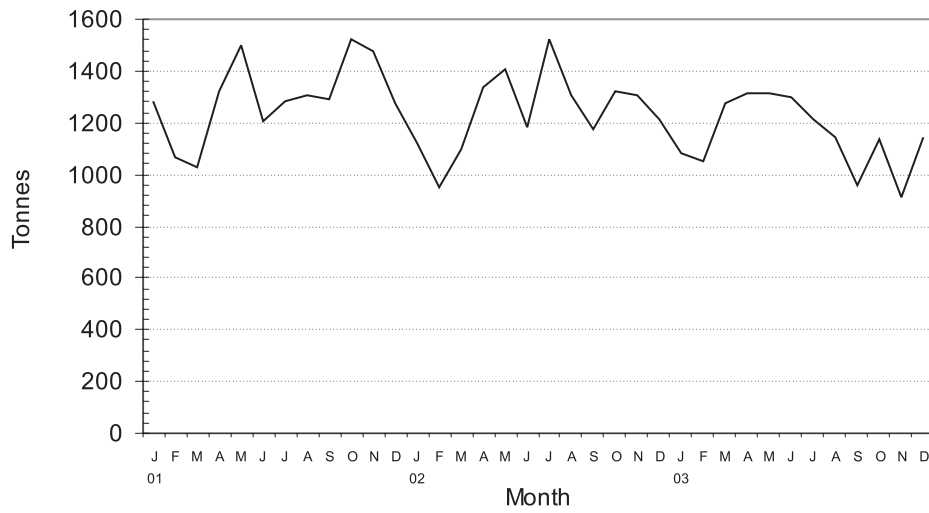


Figure 2. Throughput of cabbage on the Brisbane market 2001 to 2003

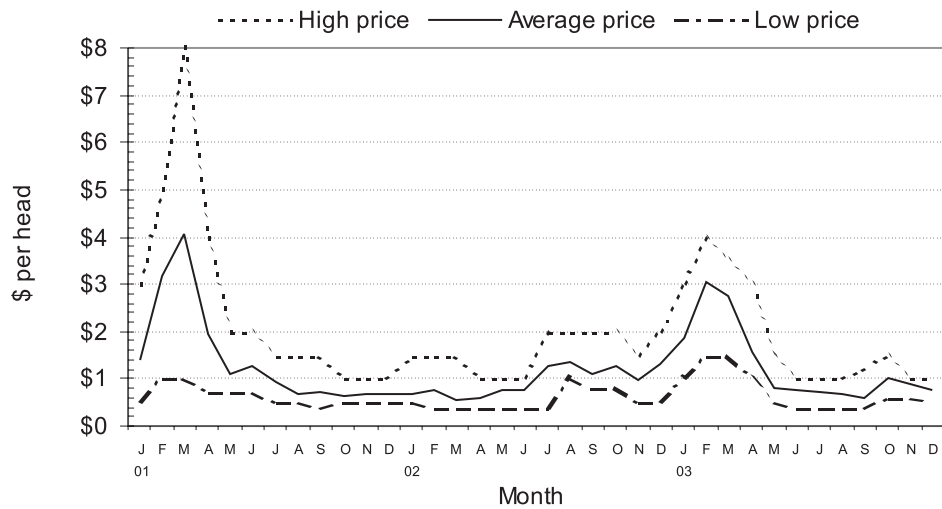


Figure 3. Average monthly price for ballhead cabbage on the Sydney market 2001 to 2003

## Production costs for cabbage

Production and marketing costs in southern Queensland are at least \$0.70 per head. Variable growing, harvesting and marketing costs range from \$10 000 to \$16 000 or more per hectare.

Table 3 shows the estimated average costs of a southern Queensland crop yielding 16 000 heads per hectare sold in fibreboard bulk bins at \$1.00 per head on the Brisbane market.

**Table 3.** Example costs of producing and marketing a cabbage crop grown in southern Queensland

Costs	\$ per head	\$ per hectare
Growing	0.22	3 520
Harvesting (pick, pack & bin)	0.37	5 920
Marketing (freight and commission)	0.25	4 000
<b>Total variable costs</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>13 440</b>

## Gross margin

At an average yield of 16 000 heads per hectare and an average price of \$1.00 per head, the gross return would be \$16 000/ha. The gross margin (income after deducting growing, harvesting and marketing costs) for the yield, price and cost averages used here would be \$2560/ha. To determine your net income, deduct fixed and capital costs such as rates, vehicle registration, insurance, electricity, administration, interest and living expenses.



a key issue

Cabbage gross margin  
Chapter 4 page 87

## Cauliflower yields and prices

Marketable yields commonly range from 1 500 to 2 000 cartons per hectare. Yields can be substantially lower during unfavourable growing conditions.

Price can range from \$2.00 to \$50.00 per carton, but is usually in the \$8.00 to \$18.00 range. Figures 4 to 6 show average prices and throughput at the Brisbane market and prices at the Sydney market for 2001 to 2003. The bigger the variation above or below the average price, the greater the opportunity or risk involved.



more info

Market prices  
Chapter 6 page 282

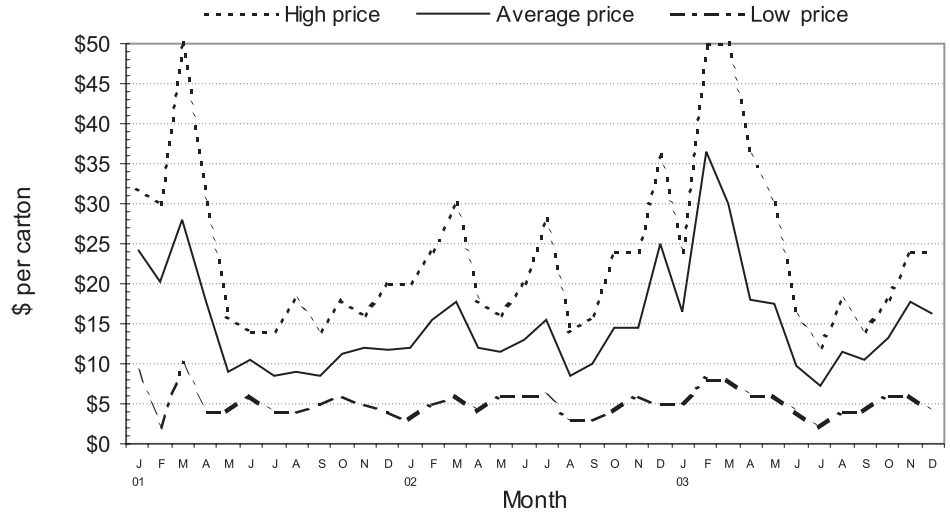


Figure 4. Average monthly price for cauliflower on the Brisbane market 2001 to 2003

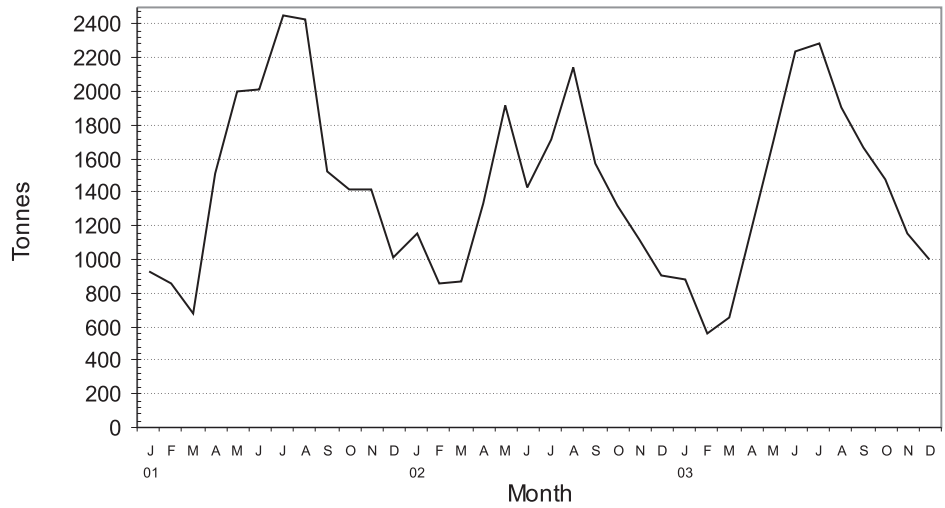


Figure 5. Throughput of cauliflower on the Brisbane market 2001 to 2003

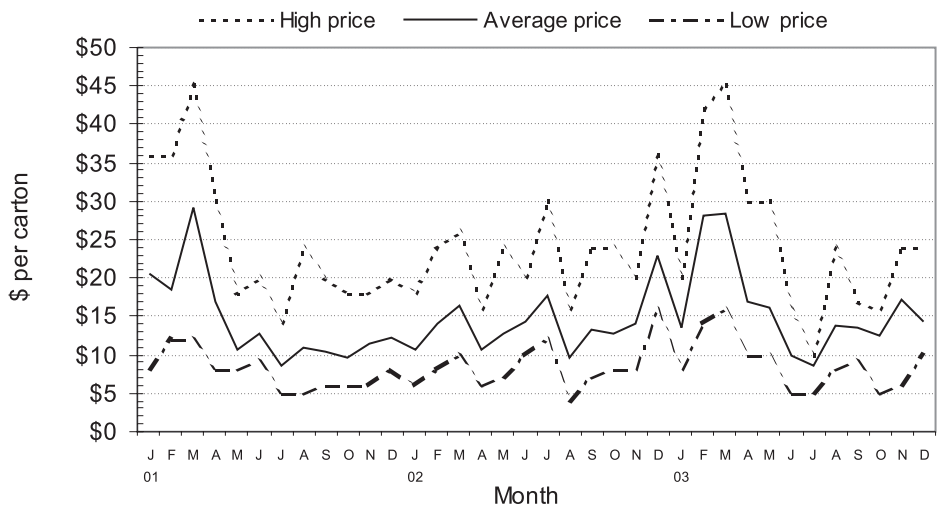


Figure 6. Average monthly price for cauliflower on the Sydney market 2001 to 2003

## Production costs

Production and marketing costs in southern Queensland are at least \$9.50 per carton. Variable growing, harvesting and marketing costs are at least \$14 000/ha, but can be \$20 000 or more per hectare. The evenness of crop maturity will have a significant impact on harvesting costs.

Table 4 shows the estimated average costs of a southern Queensland crop yielding 1 700 cartons per hectare sold at \$12 per carton on the Brisbane market.

**Table 4.** Example costs of producing and marketing a cauliflower crop grown in southern Queensland

Costs	\$ per carton	\$ per hectare
Growing	2.77	4 709
Harvesting (pick, pack & carton)	5.61	9 537
Marketing (freight and commission)	2.35	3 995
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.73</b>	<b>18 241</b>

## Gross margin

At an average yield of 1 700 cartons per hectare and an average price of \$12 per carton, the gross return would be \$20 400/ha. The gross margin (income after deducting growing, harvesting and marketing costs) for the yield, price and cost averages used here would be \$2159/ha. To determine your net income, deduct fixed and capital costs such as rates, vehicle registration, insurance, electricity, administration, interest and living expenses.



a key issue

Cauliflower gross margin  
Chapter 4 page 90

## Broccoli yields and prices

Marketable yields commonly range from 700 to 1000 icepacks per hectare.

Price can range from \$3.00 to \$40.00 per icepack, but is usually in the \$12.00 to \$22.00 range. Figures 7 to 9 show average prices and throughput at the Brisbane market and prices at the Sydney market for 2001 to 2003. The bigger the variation above or below the average price, the greater the opportunity or risk involved.



more info

Market prices  
Chapter 6 page 282

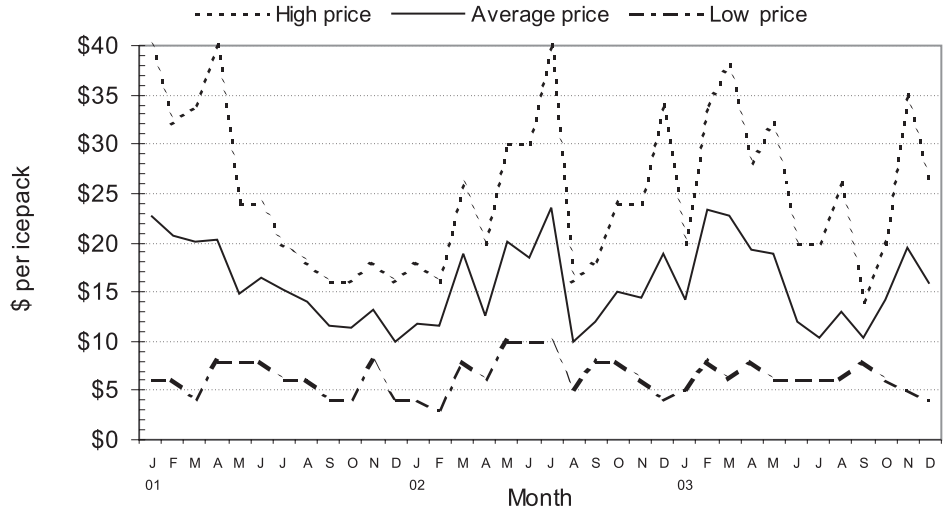


Figure 7. Average monthly price for broccoli on the Brisbane market 2001 to 2003

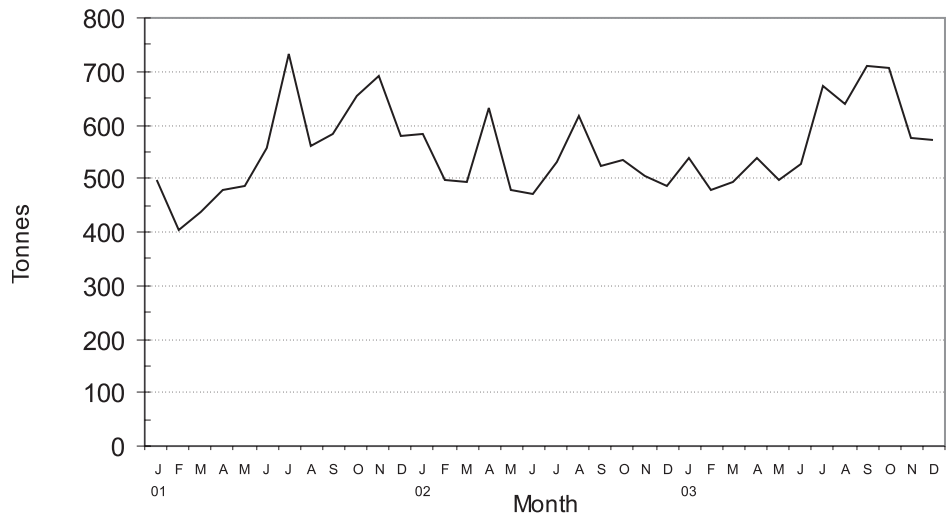


Figure 8. Throughput of broccoli on the Brisbane market 2001 to 2003

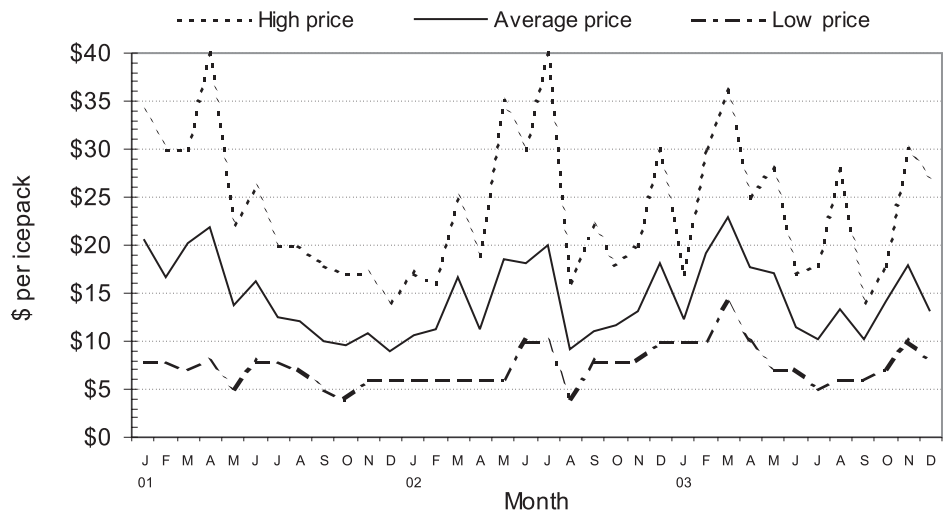


Figure 9. Average monthly price for broccoli on the Sydney market 2001 to 2003



## Production costs

Production and marketing costs in southern Queensland are at least \$13.00 per icepack. Variable growing, harvesting and marketing costs range from \$11 000 to \$15 000 or more per hectare.

Table 5 shows the estimated average costs of a southern Queensland crop yielding 900 icepacks per hectare sold at \$16.00 per icepack on the Brisbane market.

**Table 5.** Example costs of producing and marketing a broccoli crop grown in southern Queensland

Costs	\$ per icepack	\$ per hectare
Growing	4.75	4 275
Harvesting (pick, pack & icepack)	6.66	5 994
Marketing (freight and commission)	2.50	2 250
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.91</b>	<b>12 519</b>

## Gross margin

At an average yield of 900 icepacks per hectare and an average price of \$16 per icepack, the gross return would be \$14 400/ha. The gross margin (income after deducting growing, harvesting and marketing costs) for the yield, price and cost averages used here would be \$1881/ha. To determine your net income, deduct fixed and capital costs such as rates, vehicle registration, insurance, electricity, administration, interest and living expenses.



Broccoli gross margin  
Chapter 4 page 93

## Capital required

Assuming that you own or have access to suitable land, it would cost around \$250 000 to \$300 000 to buy the minimum amount of new machinery, plant and equipment needed to set up a 20 to 30 hectare brassica enterprise. This will depend on which crop you grow and what harvesting and packing arrangements you use. Cabbage would generally be less capital intensive than broccoli or cauliflower.

To reduce capital outlays, you could lease or borrow equipment and contract harvesting and packing operations. Second-hand equipment prices are normally about half that of new equipment, depending on condition and age.

You will also need to finance production and marketing of the crop. Brassicas are usually planted on a weekly schedule over a number of months. You may be looking at investing \$100 000 to \$200 000 in variable growing, harvesting and marketing costs before receiving a gross return from the first harvest.



Getting the crop started  
Chapter 3 page 34

## The farm you need

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### Soil

Brassicas will grow on most soil types but the crop needs at least 300mm of friable, well-drained topsoil. Poorly drained soils or heavy clay soils become waterlogged after rain or irrigation, making crop management more difficult. Brassicas prefer a slightly acid soil (pH 6.0 to 6.5) but will tolerate a slightly alkaline soil, up to pH 7.5.

### Climate

Brassicas grow best under cooler temperatures. Mild, sunny days with temperatures between 15° and 25°C and cool nights with temperatures between 10° and 15°C are considered ideal. Heavy winter frost (below –4°C) can damage heads and will kill young seedlings. Some varieties will tolerate hot conditions but high temperatures will reduce both head quality and yields. Cauliflower is particularly sensitive to temperature extremes.

During extended rainy weather, plants are more likely to become infected with diseases such as black rot and bacterial head rots. These are difficult to manage once the disease is established in the field. Rainfall will also restrict machinery operations, particularly on heavy soils.

Brassica crops are attacked by a range of butterfly and moth larvae (caterpillars). These can be difficult to control, particularly in the warmer months.

### Slope

Ideally slopes should be no more than 3%. A slight slope will provide better drainage while still allowing for efficient irrigation and use of machinery. Steep slopes will be more difficult and expensive to work. Uniform slopes are desirable but not essential. Soil erosion can be a problem on steep slopes while depressions can result in waterlogging.

Slopes above 5% require recognised soil conservation practices. Slopes above 8% make machinery operations hazardous and it can be difficult to maintain uniform irrigation.

### Water

An adequate water supply is essential to ensure economic yields of high quality product. Each crop will require 2.5 to 4 megalitres (ML) of water per hectare, depending on season, soil type and crop type. This is equivalent to 250 to 400 mm of total rain and/or irrigation over one hectare of land.



Prepare the land  
Chapter 3 page 41

When surface water, for example dams, is your main source of irrigation water, a storage capacity of 6 to 8 ML will be required for each hectare of crop grown. This will ensure that you have adequate water supplies to meet peak irrigation demands even in unseasonably dry conditions.

Brassicas are usually watered with overhead irrigation systems although some growers are switching to drip (trickle) irrigation.

The crop is moderately sensitive to poor quality water. Electrical conductivity is a measure of water salinity. Table 6 shows the water conductivity threshold for different soil types at which yield reductions may occur.



Irrigation management  
Chapter 4 page 168

**Table 6.** Water conductivity threshold for different soil types

	Sandy	Loam	Clay
Cabbage	3.5 dS/m	2.0 dS/m	1.2 dS/m
Cauliflower	3.2 dS/m	1.8 dS/m	1.1 dS/m
Broccoli	4.9 dS/m	2.8 dS/m	1.6 dS/m

Source: *NRM Facts, water series W55*

Until recently water conductivity was reported in microSiemens per centimetre ( $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ ), however it is now reported as deciSiemens per metre (dS/m).

To convert from  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  to dS/m use the following formula.  
microSiemens per centimetre ( $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ ) divided by 1000 =  
deciSiemens per metre (dS/m)

Example: 1200  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  divided by 1000 = 1.2 dS/m

To convert from deciSiemens per metre to microSiemens per centimetre multiply by 1000.

Example: 1.2 dS/m x 1000 = 1200  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$

## The machinery and equipment you need

The machinery and equipment required will depend on the size of the enterprise and crop grown. Table 7 lists the machinery and equipment considered essential for brassica production on a small scale (20 to 30 hectare). Machinery, plant and equipment listed as desirable would make management easier by increasing flexibility and would be considered essential in a larger enterprise.

The prices listed in the table are estimates only. Rather than buying new machinery you could lease, borrow or buy second-hand equipment to reduce capital outlays. Harvesting, cooling and packing can be contracted out in most major vegetable production districts.

**Table 7.** Estimated cost of new machinery and equipment

Equipment	New price \$
<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	
Tractor (26 kW) for planting, cultivation, spraying, harvest	30 000
Tractor (45 to 60 kW) for discs, ripper, rotary hoe	60 000
Truck or tractor and trailer	10 000–40 000
Cultivation equipment	20 000–25 000
Bed-former	2 000
Transplanter	4 000
Fertiliser spreader	10 000
Spray equipment for crop	10 000
Irrigation equipment	80 000
Tractor mounted forklift	10 000
Pallet jack	700
<b>DESIRABLE</b>	
Power harrows (1.5m width with bed-former)	17 000
Spray equipment for herbicides	4 000
Harvest aid	26 000
Shed forklift	30 000
Slasher/pulveriser	3 000–6 000
Sorting/packing tables and equipment	10 000
20 pallet coldroom	35 000
Forced air cooling facilities (8 pallet room)	50 000

## The labour you need

One person could grow 10 to 15 hectares of crop over a six-month period with additional labour to help with transplanting, harvesting and packing. Cabbage production is less labour-intensive than cauliflower and broccoli growing.

Three people plus a driver are required for planting. This team could plant out around 5000 to 7000 transplants per hour.

A team of four can cut around three half-tonne bins of cabbage per hour. Six to eight people are needed to operate a harvest aid efficiently. Using a harvest aid, a team of eight could pick and pack between 40 to 50 icepacks of broccoli per hour or 60 to 80 cartons of cauliflower per hour. Cutting and packing rates would slow considerably when more than two or three passes are needed to harvest the crop.

Transplanting, harvesting, cooling and packing operations can be contracted out for all three crops; this reduces problems associated with managing a large number of staff.

## Other considerations

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Growing brassica crops involves hard, physical work. This includes land preparation, planting, spraying for weed, pest and disease control, fertilising, irrigating, harvesting and packing. There is a high labour requirement for transplanting, picking and packing, particularly for product sold in cartons or icepacks.

Management skills or access to consultants with these skills are required for managing finances, administration, staff and the crop. Good communication skills, or staff with these skills, are essential for successfully managing labour and organising markets. Skills in machinery operation and maintenance, the ability to read and understand chemical labels, and skill in observing and fixing problems in their early stages, are essential. Careful attention to detail is necessary to be a successful brassica grower.

Quality of the end product is most important in successful cabbage, cauliflower or broccoli growing. This starts with good land preparation, careful selection of varieties to suit the district and season and continues through the growing of the crop, harvesting, cooling, packing and marketing.

Brassica crops may be grown organically. However, it can be difficult to achieve adequate weed, pest and disease control.



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*Organic production*  
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