



Native food background notes

These notes provide a quick background to the Native Foods Industry in Australia and South Australia:

Value: Estimated at \$16M pa at retail level.

Main species: Bush Tomatoes, Citrus, Davidson Plums, Illawarra Plum, Lemon Aspen, Lemon Myrtle, Mountain Pepper, Muntries, Riberry, Quandong, Wattles.

Source: Wild harvest has predominated in past. Currently there is move towards cultivation, with some species more advanced than others.

Wild harvest: Still significant for Desert Limes, Bush Tomatoes, Lemon Aspen, Mountain Pepper, Muntries, Quandong and Wattle.

Main wild harvest areas: Central Australia (Bush Tomatoes, Wattles); Central & South-Western Queensland (Desert Limes); East Coast NSW & Queensland (Lemon Aspen, Finger and Round Limes); Eyre Peninsula & Flinders Ranges, South Australia (Quandongs); Victorian West Coast & South Australian South East Coast (Muntries); Tasmania (Mountain Pepper).

Cultivation: Well advanced in Bush Tomatoes, Citrus, Lemon Myrtle and Quandongs. At an earlier stage in Davidson Plums, Illawarra Plums, Mountain Pepper, Muntries, Riberry and Wattle.

Cultivation areas: East Coast NSW & Queensland (Davidson Plums, Illawarra Plums, Lemon Myrtle, Riberry); Riverland South Australia (Bush Tomatoes, Citrus, Quandongs, Wattles); Adelaide Hills-Southern Vales (Lemon Aspen, Lemon Myrtle, Mountain Pepper, Muntries, Riberry); Yorke Peninsula (Bush Tomatoes); Eyre Peninsula & Flinders Ranges (Quandong); Tasmania (Mountain Pepper).

Other potential cultivation areas in SA: South East, Fleurieu Peninsula, Kangaroo Island.

Supply and demand: Demand generally good for main species, supplies depend on seasonal and economic conditions. Recent gluts of Davidson Plums and Lemon Myrtle. Recent shortages of Bush Tomato.

Products: Native Foods are mainly used as components in wet and dry minimal and further processed products (sauces, jams, spices, etc) and in foodservice. There is some foodservice but little retail trade in fresh produce.

Markets: Supermarkets in Australia and the UK are significant markets for processors. Asia, Europe and the USA are lesser explored markets. Tourist market is significant for some operators. Direct foodservice supply, particularly of fresh product, is main or significant market for some operators. Ingredient supply to larger food manufacturers is a small but growing market.

Further information

Further information on native crops is contained in the other publications in this series:

Australian Native Citrus – Wild Species, Cultivars and Hybrids

Bush Tomato Production

Miscellaneous Native Food Crops – Davidson and Illawarra Plums

Miscellaneous Native Food Crops – East Coast Tree Species with Potential in SA

Miscellaneous Native Food Crops – Herbs and Vegetables with Potential in SA

Mountain Pepper Production

Muntries Production

Native Food Background Notes

Native Food Crops – Frequently Asked Questions

Native Food Crops – Sources of Information

Quandong Production

Sunrise Lime Dieback

The Native Food Industry in SA

Wattleseed Production

These fact sheets are also available for download from the Australian Native Produce Industries website at www.anpi.com.au

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