

**Testing Water for use in irrigation**

The Water Chemistry Laboratory (WCL) in the Policy & Services Division of the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources provides a water testing service. Work is done on a fee-for-service basis and is available to government and non-government customers.

The WCL can provide a Complete Chemical Analysis Package (potable or drinking water) test for a cost of \$137.50 (+GST and sample handling fee).

**Procedure for collecting and submitting water samples:**

- Allow the water source to run for a few minutes, rinse container out once then fill to overflowing, leaving no air gap.
- Special bottles are not required – clean, plastic 1 Litre bottles are preferred.
- Refrigerate if the samples are to be stored.
- Courier samples in rigid, insulated containers if possible.

Samples can be delivered to: BAL Building, Berrimah Farm, Makagon Rd, Berrimah between 8:00am and 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.

**Contact:**

For advice on how to collect water samples for chemical testing, contact the Laboratory Manager on telephone (08) 8999 2196 or fax (08) 8999 2191

**Soil Testing and Sampling**

Agricultural industry suppliers such as Landmark, Elders and Barnyard Trading are the local agents to receive soil samples for forwarding to their choice of Laboratory for analysis. To get information on specific soil sampling procedures contact these suppliers and follow the instructions. Typically results are received within 2 weeks.

**NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT CONTACTS CONTINUED:**

**Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries & Resources (DRDPIFR)**

Role: Provides information and advice on pests & diseases, research on plant based industry development, water testing, improved pastures, and technical publications

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|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Biosecurity & Product Integrity ..... | Phone: ..... | 08 8999 2287 |
| Pastoral Production .....             | Phone: ..... | 08 8999 2011 |
| Policy & Services .....               | Phone: ..... | 08 8999 2384 |
| Plant Industries .....                | Phone: ..... | 08 8999 2357 |

**Indigenous Horticulture Development Decision Model**

This information sheet is produced to assist people living and working in Indigenous communities to determine the feasibility of undertaking farming or market garden ventures.

Horticulture, Farming and Market Gardening are high input activities requiring a high level of resources to operate successfully. The flow chart contained in this document illustrates the factors that should be considered when contemplating farming activities. It should be used as a guide and specialist advice should be sought on technical matters.

The Plant Industries Division of the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources (DRDPIFR) is committed to assisting Indigenous people and communities to realise their goals in plant industry development.

Any Indigenous people or communities requiring assistance in determining the feasibility of proposed plant industry projects can avail themselves of expert advice from the Department by first contacting 8999 2357.

**NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT CONTACTS:**

**Department of Business & Employment (DBE)**

Role: Support business investment and capacity building in the NT to produce jobs and employment opportunities ..... Phone: ..... 1800 193 111

**Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts & Sport (DNRETAS)**

Role: Covers a range of functions such as, Land & Water, Biodiversity Conservation, Natural Resource Management and Environment, Heritage, the Arts, and Sport

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|---|--------------|--------------|
| Rangelands Management Branch .....        | Phone: ..... | 08 8999 4478 |
| Vegetation & Land Management Branch ..... | Phone: ..... | 08 8999 4478 |
| Pastoral Land Board .....                 | Phone: ..... | 08 8999 4667 |
| Water Resources Branch .....              | Phone: ..... | 08 8999 4455 |
| Weed Management Branch .....              | Phone: ..... | 08 8999 4567 |

**Department of Planning & Infrastructure (DPI)**

Role: Services include Crown land leasing, mapping and spatial data, policies on sustainable long term use of land

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|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Land Administration ..... | Phone: ..... | 08 8999 6886 |
| Land Information .....    | Phone: ..... | 08 8995 5300 |
| Planning .....            | Phone: ..... | 08 8999 7867 |

**DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, PRIMARY INDUSTRY, FISHERIES AND RESOURCES**




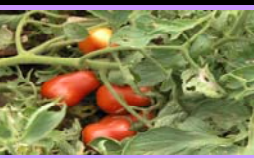

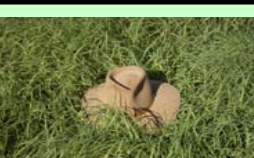







**Plant Industries Division**

GPO Box 3000 Darwin NT 0801 Tel: 08 8999 2357 Fax: 08 8999 2049 Email: horticulture@nt.gov.au Web: www.horticulture.nt.gov.au

**Disclaimer:**

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# INDIGENOUS HORTICULTURE DEVELOPMENT DECISION MODEL

RESOURCE		ASSESSMENT												GO TO	
 LAND	Do you have available land?	YES	→	Do you have rights to use the land?	YES	→	Is the slope less than 5% ?	YES	→	Possible tree and annual crops	Is the slope less than 1% ?	YES	→	Possible tree or annual crops	 SOIL
		NO	STOP		NO	STOP		NO	STOP			NO	→	Possible tree crops only	
 SOIL	Is the soil pH between 5 and 8? <i>(see soil sampling procedure)</i>	YES	→	Is the soil salinity less than 2 dS/m?	YES	→	Is the top 30cm of soil well drained?	YES	→	Possible annual crops	Is the soil well drained to 1.5 metres?	YES	→	Possible tree and annual crops	 WATER
		NO	STOP		NO	STOP		NO	STOP			NO	→	Possible annual crops	
 WATER	Can you drink the water? <i>(see water sampling procedure)</i>	YES	→	Does the water contain less than 1000mg/L TDS?	YES	→	Is there at least 3.5 ML/ha available?	YES	→	→	Is there more than 10 ML/ha available?	YES	→	Possible tree or annual crops	 PEOPLE & LABOUR
		NO	STOP		NO	STOP		NO	→		Possible small gardens	NO	→	Possible annual crops market garden	
 PEOPLE & LABOUR	Is the community interested?	YES	→	Are workers available?	YES	→	Do they want to work on the crop?	YES	→	→	Do they have the skills?	YES	→	→	 FARMER / MANAGER
		NO	STOP		NO	→	Possible lease to 3 <sup>rd</sup> party	NO	→		Possible lease to 3 <sup>rd</sup> party or joint venture	NO	→	Will require training	
 FARMER / MANAGER	Do you have farming expertise?	YES	→	→	YES	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	 MARKETS
		NO	→	Is it economically viable to employ someone with experience?	NO	→	Possible lease to 3 <sup>rd</sup> party or joint venture	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	
 MARKETS	Do you want to make money?	YES	→	Does someone want to buy your produce?	YES	→	Will they pay enough?	YES	→	→	→	→	→	→	 INFRASTRUCTURE & EQUIPMENT
		NO	→	Grow community or kitchen gardens for consumption	NO	STOP		NO	STOP						
 INFRASTRUCTURE & EQUIPMENT	Do you have good roads, barges and transport to market?	YES	→	Do you have access to suitable refrigerated storage and transport?	YES	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	 BUSINESS PLAN	
		NO	STOP	Grow only for community consumption	NO	STOP									
 BUSINESS PLAN	Have you developed a business plan?	YES	→	Did this include an economic assessment?	YES	→	Will you generate a profit in an acceptable period of time	YES	→	→	→	→	→	If you have made it to this point without encountering any <b>S.T.O.P.</b> signs it is likely that you will be able to proceed with your proposed venture	
		NO	STOP		NO	STOP		NO	STOP						