

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

- 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

- 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

- 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





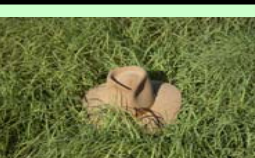




Plant Industries Division

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 rd party | NO | → | Possible lease to 3 rd 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 rd 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 S.T.O.P. signs it is likely that you will be able to proceed with your proposed venture | |
| | | NO | STOP | | NO | STOP | | NO | STOP | | | | | | |