

Visiting beautiful gardens is a popular activity. Bookshops have many books and magazines to help the home gardener and a TV programme "The Garden Show" has top ratings.

Garden centres have a big range of plants available throughout the year. Spring is the busiest time for buying and planting. Some garden centres have a restaurant to attract customers and gardening classes are held to help people to learn more about plants and garden design.

In the Bay of Plenty where I live we enjoy a temperate to subtropical climate. Summer temperatures average 25 C, winter 12 C. Annual rainfall is 1310 mm. The soil is fertile. All these factors help to make good growing conditions. The Bay of Plenty is the major kiwifruit growing area, also avocados and citrus are grown and produce good crops.

Propagation of Roses and Transition of Nursery Management

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INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, people in Japan love to have plants and flowers as a part of their lives and living areas. The consumption of potted miniature roses is increasing because they are cheap, attractive, and have many different coloured flowers. Production is also increasing as it is possible to produce them all year round by means of a short growing period and cutting propagation. We are involved in potted miniature rose production.

HISTORY

- 1973, April: The start of rose nursery plant production (100,000 plants per year). Two-year-old plants for garden roses and one-year-old plants for cut roses, propagated by veneer-grafting and bud grafting.
- 1977, August: The start of potted floribunda rose production. Construction of pipe-frame glasshouse 600 m² (150,000 potted-rose production per year)
- 1987, September: Introduction of potted miniature roses (100,000 potted-rose production per year). Introduction of miniature rose cultivars from Meilland (France) and Deluiter (Holland). Propagation by cutting (first grower of year-round production). Use of peat moss (pH 5.5) for propagation bed.
- 1989, September: Establishment of Central Rose Nursery Ltd.
- 1990, April: Construction of glasshouse (1540 m²) and office (108 m²). Three hundred thousand potted miniature roses produced per year. Contract with Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd. and introduction of miniature rose cultivars from Polesen (Denmark).

- 1992, April: Construction of glasshouse (1000 m²), pipe-frame glasshouse (1320 m²), and shipping yard (250 m²). No.1 grower of potted miniature roses.
- 1993, September: Construction of glasshouse (1000 m²) and automatic irrigation (open field). 500,000 potted miniature roses produced per year. Start of potted conifer production (*Juniperus* 'Gold Crest', 'Gold Star', and 'Silver Star')
- 1994, February: Potted miniature roses received a Gold prize from a Floral Exposition in Japan.
- 1995: Setting up lighting system in glasshouse for cutting production (3000 lx, 18-h photoperiod). Selling of "Happy Dome"; dried flower miniature roses.

FUTURE

Our future goals are to increase the efficiency of cutting production, decrease the costs of production, and supply goods which meet the demands of the consumer.

Ornamental Horticulture in Australia, the Propagators Role

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Australia was initially settled by people of European background. The English and European influence in gardens and public spaces is outlined.

A brief resume of early nurseries and their role in a changing society is shown. Australian society changed, so nurseries grew and specialist staff were needed. A propagator who looks after crop scheduling, cutting production on mother stock, and the actual propagation unit is central to every successful nursery.

Modern nursery practice in Australia is up to world standards and is in some cases ahead of the industry elsewhere. Nursery accreditation, plant quarantine, tissue culture, plant variety rights among other things have had a distinct impact on the nursery industry in Australia.

Export and its potential in cut flowers, tissue-cultured plant material, and in young green plants is a growing business, expanding at about 12% per year.

A brief review illustrated with slides of the authors business was shown.