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A Survey of Cultivars and Management Practices in Australian Persimmon Orchards

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Abstract

Three surveys were conducted to determine the most commonly used cultivars and management practices across Australia. The persimmon industry is established from the semi-tropical far north of Queensland to the cool temperate zones of Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. Fruit from warmer regions mature four months earlier, giving a harvest spread from February to June inclusive. The majority of the Australian industry is based on the non-astringent cultivar Fuyu. Only 26% of Australian orchards are planted with pollinizers. Yield and fruit size vary within and between regions. Factors contributing to lower yields and smaller size grades are temperature, salinity, pollination, and training and management systems. The most common tree training system is the freestanding vase, followed by palmette, then V- and Tatura trellises. Ruakura trellis is the least used. Trellised trees produce higher yields of marketable fruit through increased planting density, improved light interception and a tree structure that stabilises against tree movement, significantly reducing fruit blemish.

Keywords

Australia; management practices; persimmon; astringent; training systems; pollination; salinity

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