

Flower Production by Japanese in Brazil

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Brazil is 8,500,000 km² in area, 23 times as large as Japan, and the population is 146,000,000. Although the capital is Brasilia, the biggest city is Sao Paulo which has a population the same as Tokyo.

Japanese people are involved in agriculture in Brazil, especially wheat farming, and fruit and flower production. Ninety percent of the flower growers are Japanese, and they live around Sao Paulo. Sao Paulo has the same climate as the highlands of Taiwan—it is a subtropical zone. The quality of potted flowers in Brazil, e.g. poinsettia, dendrobium, and ferns, is very high in spite of unheated production systems, because the climate is good for flower production with low humidity and a large difference between day and night temperatures. The growers also use a lot of insulation.

The price of agricultural land is: \$10 m⁻².

The cost of a glasshouse:

\$2 to 3 m ⁻² - wooden glasshouse
\$6 to 7 m ⁻² - pipe-frame glasshouse
\$12 m ⁻² - glasshouse.

Gardening in New Zealand

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Since the beginning of civilisation, gardens have been mentioned in history—the Garden of Eden, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, and no doubt Japanese history has important gardens too. Throughout history mankind has used Nature for peace and meditation. The olive branch is a symbol of peace and every country has a national flower.

New Zealand is approximately the same size as Japan and lies in geographically similar degrees of latitude, north and south of the Equator. Tokyo is 36° North, Auckland City 36° South.

The first English settlers arrived in New Zealand 160 years ago. Although the natural vegetation was lush, green, and different, they brought with them reminders of their country—trees, shrubs, flowers, fruit trees, and English birds. Most of the plants grew well and some have become weeds. From this beginning an informal style of gardening has developed using plants from all parts of the world. A flowering *Prunus* can be planted beside a tropical hibiscus, a camellia beside a grevillia, a lapageria from Chile beside an English rose. There are no rules.

Native plants from New Zealand mix well with imported species. Cottage style gardens are very popular using a mixture of flowering shrubs, perennials, and annuals.

Gardening is the number one leisure activity in New Zealand. Every house has its own area of lawn and flowers and some people grow vegetables. Some country homes have large private gardens that are open to the public.

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).