

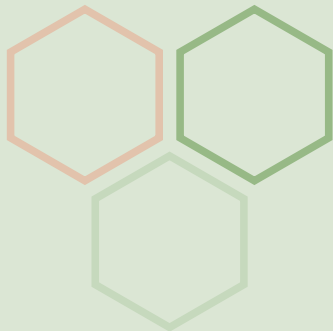
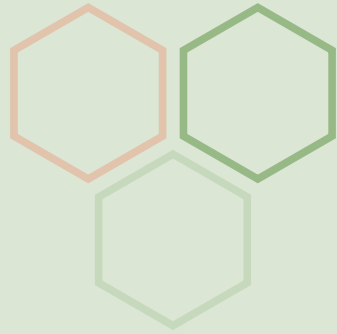
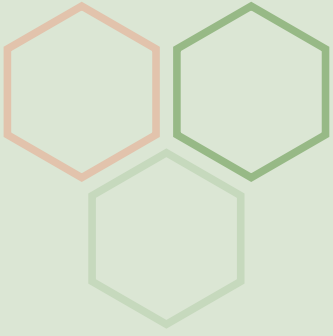


Australian Government  
Australian Centre for  
International Agricultural Research

# Pacific sandalwood

Growers' guide for sandalwood production  
in the Pacific region







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## **Editors**

Tony Page

David Bush

Bronwyn Clarke

Lex Thomson



**2022**

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) was established in June 1982 by an Act of the Australian Parliament. ACIAR operates as part of Australia's international development cooperation program, with a mission to achieve more productive and sustainable agricultural systems, for the benefit of developing countries and Australia. It commissions collaborative research between Australian and developing-country researchers in areas where Australia has special research competence. It also administers Australia's contribution to the International Agricultural Research Centres.

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# Foreword

Sandalwood trees (*Santalum* spp.) are highly valued for their fragrant heartwood oils, which have been used for centuries for religious and customary purposes. Now sandalwood oil is in demand internationally for cosmetics, aromatherapy, scenting of soaps, perfumery and medicines. The oil-bearing heartwood is also used for ornamental or ceremonial carvings, and powdered for the manufacture of incense joss sticks.

There has been trade in sandalwood in the Pacific region since the 1400s, when Chinese merchants and Arab traders started visiting Timor and surrounding islands. Trade then expanded throughout the region to Hawaii, Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Vanuatu and Tonga. The sandalwood trade remains an important source of income for many smallholders in the Pacific region, and farmers and industry alike seek to transition from wild harvest to plantation sandalwood.

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) was mandated, as set out in the ACIAR Act (1982), to work with partners across the Indo-Pacific region to generate the knowledge and technologies that underpin improvements in agricultural productivity, sustainability and food systems resilience. We do this by funding, brokering and managing research partnerships for the benefit of partner countries and Australia. We also support the dissemination of the knowledge and experience gained from research by publishing books, guides and manuals for a range of audiences.

For the past 30 years, ACIAR invested in considerable research and development of best practices for the cultivation of sandalwood by smallholder farmers, coincident with rapidly expanding areas of smallholder plantings. Drawing from this investment and its outcomes, in 2012, ACIAR published *Vanuatu sandalwood – Growers' guide for sandalwood production in Vanuatu*. The original guide provided very practical guidelines, informed by research, for establishing productive sandalwood woodlots and was well used not only in Vanuatu, but in Fiji and Tonga as well.

Continued and growing interest in sandalwood production beyond these countries has led to a review and update of the original guide, for smallholders and their advisors in Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and Australia, as well as in Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga.

The investment of ACIAR and its brokering of collaborative research and development, as well as further investment to extend the outcomes of the research, will increase the sustainable supply of sandalwood and improve the incomes of smallholder growers throughout the Pacific region.



Andrew Campbell

Chief Executive Officer, ACIAR





# Contents

Foreword . . . . .	iii
Contributors . . . . .	viii
Acknowledgements . . . . .	x
Acronyms and abbreviations . . . . .	xi
Units . . . . .	xi
<b>1 Introduction . . . . .</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Sandalwood products . . . . .	.1
1.2 Sandalwood markets . . . . .	.2
<b>2 Sandalwood species . . . . .</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 Distribution and size . . . . .	.5
2.2 Biology . . . . .	.6
<b>3 Nursery . . . . .</b>	<b>11</b>
3.1 Seedling production . . . . .	11
3.2 Seed collection and storage . . . . .	12
3.3 Germination. . . . .	14
3.4 Preparing a medium . . . . .	16
3.5 Growing seedlings . . . . .	20
3.6 Raising wildings . . . . .	23
3.7 Nursery construction . . . . .	24
3.8 Nursery management . . . . .	26
<b>4 Establishing a plantation . . . . .</b>	<b>29</b>
4.1 Site selection . . . . .	29
4.2 Site preparation . . . . .	30
4.3 Planting layout and tree spacing . . . . .	30
4.4 Direct seeding . . . . .	38
4.5 Planting seedlings . . . . .	39

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<b>5</b>	<b>Pruning saplings</b>	<b>.41</b>
5.1	Formative pruning	41
5.2	Form pruning	41
5.3	Canopy reduction pruning.	44
5.4	Remedial pruning	44
5.5	Correctly pruned.	46
5.6	Incorrectly pruned	46
<b>6</b>	<b>Hosts</b>	<b>.49</b>
6.1	Host silviculture	49
6.2	Host types	50
6.3	Preferred hosts for each species	50
6.4	Pot host	52
6.5	Intermediate hosts	53
6.6	Intermediate to long-term hosts	57
6.7	Long-term hosts	59
<b>7</b>	<b>Weeds</b>	<b>.73</b>
7.1	Importance of weed control	73
7.2	Weed control – pulling and cutting	76
7.3	Host competition	77
7.4	Sandalwood competition	77
<b>8</b>	<b>Pests, diseases, and other problems for production</b>	<b>.79</b>
8.1	<i>Phellinus noxius</i>	79
8.2	Leaf blackspot	81
8.3	Seedling wilt, damping off and dieback	82
8.4	Sap-sucking and defoliating insects	85
8.5	Pot host field issues	86
8.6	Leaf galling	87
8.7	Web-forming, leaf-eating caterpillars	88
8.8	Grazing and browsing animals	88
8.9	Seed predation by birds.	89
8.10	Waterlogging and/or high watertable	90





8.11	Fire	90
8.12	Cyclones	91
8.13	Sun scorch	91
8.14	Bark slash	92
8.15	Heartwood check damage	93
8.16	Heartwood rot	93
<b>9</b>	<b>Tree and heartwood growth, and heartwood properties</b>	<b>95</b>
9.1	Tree growth rates	95
9.2	Heartwood development	96
9.3	Heartwood properties	98
9.4	References	100
<b>10</b>	<b>Sandalwood harvesting and preliminary processing</b>	<b>103</b>
10.1	Sandalwood harvesting	103
10.2	Preliminary processing	105
10.3	Productivity	106
10.4	Reference	106
<b>11</b>	<b>Product grading system</b>	<b>109</b>
11.1	Typical sandalwood grades	110
11.2	Processing by-product	112
11.3	Immature and faulty sandalwood grades	113
11.4	Specialty heartwood	115
11.5	Reference	115
<b>12</b>	<b>Processing sandalwood</b>	<b>117</b>
12.1	Processed product	118
<b>13</b>	<b>Further reading</b>	<b>121</b>
13.1	<i>Santalum album</i>	121
13.2	<i>Santalum austrocaledonicum</i>	121
13.3	<i>Santalum macgregorii</i>	122
13.4	<i>Santalum lanceolatum</i>	122
13.5	<i>Santalum yasi</i>	123

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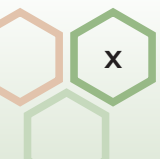
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# Acronyms and abbreviations

<b>Term</b>	<b>Description</b>
2CC	second cutting chips
DBH	diameter at breast height
DBHOB	diameter at breast height over bark

## Units

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Definition</b>
cm	centimetre
cm AGL	centimetres above ground level
g	gram
ha	hectare
kg	kilogram
L	litre
m	metre
m <sup>2</sup>	square metre
m AGL	metres above ground level
m ASL	metres above sea level
mm	millimetre
ppm	parts per million
t	tonne, metric tonne (1,000 kg)
°C	degree Celsius



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