

## Autumn 2012



**WESCORP AGARWOOD**

Wescorp Agarwood  
Tim Coakley  
0418 942 387  
tim@wescorp.com.au

Wescorp Group of Companies  
26 Coulson Way  
Canning Vale  
Western Australia 6155

Postal Address  
PO Box 1298  
Canning Vale  
Western Australia 6970



**Our Website has more Agarwood information and photos, check it out**  
[www.wescorp.com.au](http://www.wescorp.com.au)

## Aquilaria Plantations in Queensland Expanded in 2012

The Aquilaria estate in Far North Queensland continues to expand in 2012 with 14,000 seedlings planted in January and still more plantings to come.

The unseasonably dry start to January proved to be a challenge for plantation establishment. Many consecutive days of dry, hot and windy days restricted the planting progress with some already planted seedlings needing to be hand watered to see them through.



*Hand watering newly planted seedlings*

Despite several days of very harsh conditions a post planting

survival count recorded less than 0.5% of planted seedlings perished. Again this supports the mounting opinion that Aquilaria seedlings and trees are very tough and are well equipped to handle the FNQ climatic and environmental conditions.

The commercial plantation estate has expanded to the fertile soils of Garradunga and a semi-irrigated trial has been established near Mareeba. Wescorp Agarwood are very interested to continue to plant in new localities to determine the extent of suitable sites for Aquilaria in Queensland.

### **SEEDLINGS STILL AVAILABLE**

Wescorp Agarwood has supplies of the very vigorous 2012 seedlings ready for sale. The seed was sourced by Wescorp Agarwood from a plantation in Vietnam and recent germination and seedling growth rates has proven to be of very high performance and quality.



*Aquilaria seedlings before planting at the Mad About Plants nursery.*

If you are interested in purchasing any amount of seedlings please contact Tim Coakley on 0418 942 387.

Seedlings purchased during the dry season will need to be irrigated in the early stages of establishment.

Some existing irrigation trials in FNQ have shown that a moderate watering regime supports healthy growth and survival of Aquilaria in lower rainfall areas or when planting during the drier months.



## First Australian Grown Aquilaria Seeds Produced in 2012

The first Australian plantation grown Aquilaria trees have produced seed this year. A number of trees across a wide area from Mareeba to Mossman to Babinda produced viable seed.

The seed was collected and taken to the Mad About Plants nursery for germination trials.

Although only a small amount of seed was produced it is a significant sign that the trees are growing healthily and have the capacity to produce in Australia.



*Aquilaria crassna fruits have only 2 seeds inside.*

The amount of seeds expected to be produced in Queensland next season is expected to increase significantly, and Australia is expected to be self sufficient in the near future.

This is a positive for the Australian industry as it allows for seeds to be collected at a more suitable time and provides for a longer growing period for the resulting seedlings in the nursery. Growers are encouraged to advise Wescorp if fruit is noted.

*“ Very little Agarwood is produced in healthy trees without wounding, therefore under cultivation the trees need to be inoculated to induce Agarwood production ”*



## Some Interesting AGARWOOD FACTS

Agarwood is regarded as the most expensive wood in the world.

Six million kilograms are estimated to be traded each year.

Agarwood re-exported out of Singapore alone each year is estimated to be worth US\$1.2 billion.

The largest consumers of Agarwood wood in the world (excluding oil and incense) are Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Japan.

Agarwood has been used in a medicine and in religious ceremonies in China, Japan and the Middle East for over 3000 years.

## Agarwood as Explained by Dr Tony Page of JCU

Agarwood is an aromatic resin-infused wood produced in the stems of tropical trees within the genera *Aquilaria* and *Gyrinops* that occur from India to PNG.

Agarwood has been used as a source of incense since biblical times and is still highly valued by consumers in Asia and the Middle-East for its distinctive fragrance.

Like many forest products harvested from wild stands the trees have become exceptionally rare and its value over the past few decades has consistently appreciated.

An agarwood tree produces resin as a defensive response to a generalized infection - such as fungi or bacteria. Interestingly in areas of Vietnam where there was heavy fighting during the war the agarwood trees were particularly productive - resulting from the shrapnel wounds in the trees.

The resin-rich agarwood is dark, heavy and hard and found in irregular pockets within the trunk and stems.

Once your plantation is established and you have the weeds under control you might want to sit back and watch the trees grow, however there is always something else you can be doing in the plantation, one of these jobs will be pruning.

The question of when to prune always arises. In the experience of Wescorp Agarwood the best time is when the plantation is in its second dry season. By this stage most of the lower limbs and foliage to 500mm would have been removed through previous

This agarwood is distinct from the surrounding healthy wood, which is typically white in colour, light in weight and soft in density.

Very little agarwood is produced in healthy trees without wounding or infection. Therefore under cultivation the trees need to be inoculated to induce agarwood production.



A large piece of Agarwood for sale in Vietnam

In south-east Asia and India, many smallholders use simple methods of inoculation such as wounding with a knife, axe and/or nails that produce variable results. More efficient inoculation methods have recently been developed and typically use sys-

tematic wounding followed by inclusion of a suitable growth media and/or fungal or bacterial inoculum.



Plantation *Aquilaria* inoculated to produce cultivated Agarwood

While tree-to-tree variation in agarwood production is expected, these recent developments in inoculation allow for commercial plantations that provide an alternative source of (i) agarwood from wild harvesting and (ii) income for innovative primary producers.

## When to prune your trees ??? and how high ???

applications of herbicides such as “Basta”.

As the trees grows they will develop their root systems to support the above ground mass, therefore it is important that the trees have developed a strong root system before pruning is performed. Pushing a tree and observing the degree of soil movement provides a good indication of the extent of the root system.

Pruning trees that have poor root systems can reduce further root growth and cause some general tree stability issues which will

require further attention.

Pruning from the ground up which results in leaving no less than one third of the tree’s foliage towards the top of the tree is the general rule of thumb for pruning.

Growers considering pruning are advised to contact Wescorp Agarwood to receive some advice specific to their plantation.

Later this year Wescorp will be releasing a Growers’ Manual that will cover all aspects of plantation establishment and maintenance.