

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

Jo Dawkins

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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.