

PREFACE

Diseases of Vegetable Crops in Australia is the third in a series of plant disease handbooks produced by plant pathologists from Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries. The purpose of each has been to provide a diagnostic guide and a key reference for diseases affecting vegetable crops in Australia. The first, *Handbook of Plant Diseases in Colour – Fruit and Vegetables*, was published by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries in 1978 with a second edition published in 1982. It was fully revised in the mid 1990s and published as two separate volumes, *Diseases of Fruit Crops* and *Diseases of Vegetable Crops*.

This current edition, written some 15 years later, is extensively revised and expanded.

With the collaboration of colleagues throughout Australia, the editors and authors provide essential information about the important diseases affecting most vegetable crops grown across Australia's diverse production areas. The disease descriptions are supported by many diagnostic images.

Diseases of Vegetable Crops in Australia is a valuable guide for growers, their consultants and managers, horticulturists, plant pathologists, plant protection diagnosticians, integrated pest-management specialists, educators, students and agribusiness representatives, as well as the enthusiastic home gardener and hobby farmer.

The first chapter is an introduction to the causes, nature and principles underlying the control of plant diseases and includes other sources of information about pathogen groups and plant diseases. The second chapter is an

overview of several diseases affecting many vegetable crops and links to subsequent chapters on specific crop diseases.

The remaining chapters discuss the diseases of specific crops. The diseases are organised first by pathogen type then by an alphabetical listing of diseases under each type of pathogen.

Each disease description includes information about symptoms, means of spread, disease development and survival, importance and management. The latter emphasises the need to adopt an integrated approach to disease management, applying all the appropriate cultural, crop-management and chemical methods to achieve a cost-effective and sustainable result.

Sources of further information are given at the end of each chapter.

The colour images help with disease identification, and include early symptoms or distinguishing features.

Early detection of exotic diseases that are a biosecurity threat to Australian horticultural industries is vital if they are to be contained or appropriately managed. To assist industry awareness, the major biosecurity threats for most crops have been included.

A glossary and index complete the book.

Specific chemical recommendations are not included in the disease-management sections because they change regularly, and can vary between regions and States. Current chemical recommendations can be found in specific crop management guides, and by government and private extension and consultancy services.