

Farming activities on Table Cape



Pyrethrum

The grey bushes you see growing on the farm are pyrethrum, a white chrysanthemum daisy that produces a natural insecticide, pyrethrin. The crop is perennial, usually lasting 4-5 years.

Around 8000 tonnes of pyrethrum flowers are grown every year in North West Tasmania. Tasmania supplies approximately 30 percent of the world market.

Onions

Van Diemen grows onions for Wynyon Pty Ltd, in which it owns a small share, and the onions are grown for markets as close as Melbourne and as distant as Europe.

Onions are planted from May to early September and are lifted for field drying in January and February. Harvest is February-April. Yields usually average 70 tonnes/ha.



Carrots

The crop under the white cover is carrots. The carrots are grown under the plastic to keep them warm so that they mature earlier (like a miniature greenhouse). The perforated cover produces a 2°C rise in soil temperature. As the carrots grow they push the cover off.

Carrots are planted in June and are ready to harvest in December.

Poppies

Poppies are sown in spring, flower in early summer, and are harvested in mid-late summer. Poppy flowers are a prominent part of the country side in Tasmania around Christmas.

Poppies produced in Tasmania supply a large proportion of the world's (legal) opium. Opium is used to produce drugs such as morphine and codeine.



Sheep

The sheep on Table Cape Farm are Poll Dorsets. About 150 ewes are mated each year and in July around 200 lambs are born. Stud rams are sold in Tasmania and Victoria in Spring each year.

The stud was established about 50 years ago by Bill and Eric Roberts-Thomson.