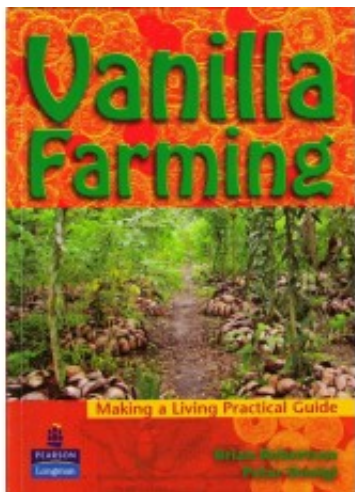


Making a Living Practical Guide – Vanilla Farming



Price: \$17.50

Short Description

This book is a practical guide for upper primary or secondary students on how to make money from vanilla. Whether you live in the highlands or on the coastal plains this book is useful for you. Clear instructions are provided on growing, harvesting and selling vanilla.

Description

Like all the books in this series the main purpose is to let young people know how they can make some money by starting a business that is well within their capability. They are written to be easily understood, provide honest advice and encourage enthusiasm.

Vanilla Farming was written in 2005 when the vanilla price was at its lowest for a long time. Peter Donigi and I were writing it then because a year or so previously the price had been sky high. This is the case with many agricultural products and this book explains reasons for this very carefully in a chapter on risk management. It can be the same for coffee, cocoa and many other farm products to a greater or lesser degree.

It was Peter who provided all the knowledge about how to grow vanilla. He grows vanilla in East Sepik.

This book also explains the biology of the vanilla plant and the different species that are

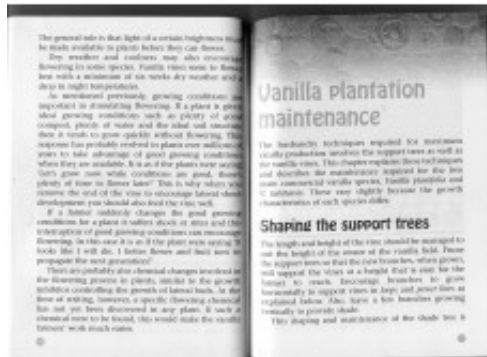
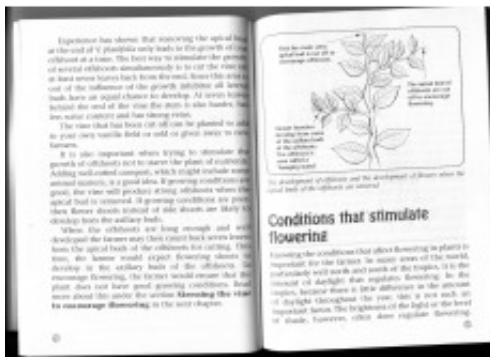
grown in PNG.

It can be grown in many places in the highlands and lowlands but does need good rainfall over about 10 months of the year.

Curing vanilla pods takes great skill and care. It is very well explained in this book and there is no reason why anyone should not be able to produce export quality vanilla pods to sell for a very good price.

Brian Robertson, co-author of Vanilla Farming.

Product Gallery



of this species, particularly the correct way to strain the vine to make it flower, it is a male secret that each breeder likes to keep to him or herself. There are no techniques that describe the correct way to make the plant flower. Each breeder has his or her own method, but the factors which are important include the weather, the level of light and the temperature during the day and the night.

Support tree routine

Support trees are planted to keep them at the correct height so they produce flowers in suitable places to support the vines, and to provide the right amount of shade or light.

- Managing the amount of light allows the farmer to grow young vines that have growing conditions for as long as possible before making them produce offspring.
- Stimulate vines to grow robustly and bearing much.
- Stem support vines (along with other practices) to stimulate flowering.

The first pruning is important because it determines the height of the support tree. Subsequent pruning will take place at this time level. In explained previously, this means that all work on the vines, such as pollination and harvesting, is done at a comfortable height for the farmer.

The farmers and the breeder practice good supporting method for the vanilla vine particularly in

unimproved previously, if the support tree is a large tree, every farmer, therefore, cut the branches into short pieces and leave them between the support trees. As the leaves rot, they provide nutrients to the vine.

It is important that some of the ground leaves are placed in contact with any part of the vanilla vine, including its leaves. The first winter frost comes from the leaves on the branch will leave the vine, this means the development and timing of the vine.

Local knowledge of the weather conditions is a must for good support tree management because support trees are usually fast growing. Generally they will develop some shade within three days of planting.

Four other shade trees should be planted directly on either side of the vine, your particular city varies in what sort of natural pattern you have to your area and whether your vines get the morning or afternoon sun. Trees that get the afternoon sun will usually have leaves shade than those that get the morning sun.

Shade trees may not need to be planted back at the same time. For example, farmers might plant trees around two to a row at one planting and then alternate trees at the next planting.

Knowledge of plant growth, local growing conditions and climate are crucial for farmers who wish to get the best from his or her vanilla plantation. During the last two years local weather patterns have changed to such an extent that the vineyard has two and even three crops of fruit per year. It seems that time is no longer a definite rest and the season. This results in reduced

quantity and quality of many of our best crops. It also affects vanilla production.

It may also mean that you are not aware and may be aware to one year this may allow you to have long crops in one year instead of one crop. Instead of this knowledge, it might be possible to manage your vineyard field so that one part of your field produces a crop in one year and the other part in the next season. It may be difficult or too hard on your vanilla vine to produce long crops in one year. While it might work with E. arborea, it is not recommended for E. planifolia.

Stem pruning of support trees should be done before the fruit is harvested to help with fruit maturing and to encourage better fruit formation of the next crop.

Stressing the vine to encourage flowering

Stressing to encourage flowering only applies to E. planifolia. E. arborea flowers only without stressing.

Following pruning of the support trees, the vines are then stressed or disturbed in the first night, usually by using water to encourage flowering. This is done at the end of the vine and under the effect of the border stones.

There are several ways of stressing the plant and each farmer has his or her own method. Many farmers are reluctant to share this information with others, but will also agree that this method is the best and

farmers must stress flowering benefits. There are four stressing methods outlined below, but no guarantee is given as to which method is most suitable. So a vanilla farmer you should be prepared to experiment to find which methods, or what combination of them, will best suit the vines growing in your local soil and subject to the weather conditions in your area.

Cutting off the end of the vine

Cutting off the end of the vine, as described above under The method, Vanilla planifolia: husbandry and maintenance, should give the farmer some benefits. If the vine is not mature enough, however, it could result in the growth of more offspring that off the vine just before the right leaf from the end of the vine. Check the vine at this point to make sure that it is hard and not soft as it is just before the terminal bud. This is the same method used when the farmer is preparing his younger vines to stimulate the growth of offspring. However, if there are already plenty of offspring, farmers should develop their the buds in the ends of the leaves.

Making a hole in the vine

Holes are made in the vine by passing a small knife into the stem of the vine at several places. Some farmers argue that this reduces water flow from the vine, making it 'thirsty' it will die and then stimulate the growth of new flower buds. Some farmers make the