

REGIONAL PROFILE

One of the newer macadamia growing regions in Australia is the Mid North Coast region of New South Wales, stretching from the Nambucca Valley north to Woolgoolga.

Approximately 1,200 hectares are planted to trees. Macadamia production is one of the region's most vibrant horticultural industries, and it makes a substantial contribution to agricultural diversity and the success of the local economy.

Most macadamias are grown on diversified farms along with other crops such as lychees, bananas and blueberries.

The macadamia industry in this region is small and close. When the area was established for macadamia growing, the 'A' variety was most commonly planted. It is known for high kernel recovery, which adds to the high quality of the local nuts, commonly referred to in the local region as the 'best tasting macadamia nuts in Australia'.

Coffs Harbour is the region's biggest major centre, but most growing is concentrated to its south, in the Nambucca Valley.

What the macadamia industry means to the Mid North Coast region

Growers

Growers in the Mid North Coast region are very proud of their macadamias, which they believe are the industry's best, as indicated by the local saying that 'the Nambucca Valley is to macadamia nuts, what the Coonawarra region is to wine, King Island is to cheese and Bowen is to mangos'!

Processors

Nambucca MacNuts Pty Ltd at Macksville operates the major processing plant, which is capable of processing most of the region's production. MacNuts was one of the first processors in Australia to produce a colour sorter.

Local business

Macksville is a small community of around 3,000 people with the Nambucca MacNuts processing plant being one of its major employers. Other businesses provide support services to the processor including transport, electrical and engineering and metal fabrication.



The region's macadamia industry at a glance

Trees planted:	375,000
Total area under canopy:	1,200 hectares
Total growers:	85 (approx.)
Total tonnage:	2,350 tonnes nut-in-shell (2016)
Farm gate value:	\$12.8 million (from 2016 tonnage @ \$5.45)
Factory gate value:	\$16 million
Retail value of Mid North Coast production:	\$29 million