

Metadata Details

Title

Prospects of Horticulture in Antarctica.

Science Keywords

Category	Agriculture
Topic	Plant Commodities
Expedition Year	1985-1986
ISO Topic	Biodiversity and Biotechnological Potential

Summary

Abstract

Horticultural experiments to cultivate some vegetables indoors were initiated during the Fifth Indian Expedition, at both Dakshin Gangotri and Maitri. Plants grew at both places well showing that the local soil is as good as the Indian soil. Preliminary surveys at DG and Maitri revealed that it is possible to obtain congenial indoor temperature. The indoor lighting and solar illumination were found to be inadequate. These, however, could be brought to the required level by doing the necessary adjustments.

Purpose

Antarctic flora, typical of a desert tundra, is mostly restricted to lichens, mosses and other lower forms, though totalling about 800 plant species (Benton, 1980) some of them growing as far poleward as 80°S. Vascular flora in Antarctica consists of only three species of flowering plants (Greene and Greene, 1963), growing mostly in Graham Land and its offshore islands, limited to the 64th parallel (Llano, 1962).

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