

Sustainable Agriculture & Gardening Eurobodalla Inc

PO Box 911
Moruya NSW 2537

www.moruyafarmersmarket.org.au



25 February 2014

To all SAGE Farmers Market Stall Holders

Ornamental plants & seedlings

An issue has arisen concerning selling ornamental plants at our market. To date, we have only permitted seedlings and plants that are directly related to growing food, including companion plants, that are cultivated by the stall holder.

The committee has been asked to allow the sale of plants that are purely ornamental, as long as they are cultivated by the stall holder. This has been a point of discussion for some weeks now and we'd like to consult our existing stall holders before we make our decision.

Should we allow ornamental seedlings and plants to be sold at the market, if they are cultivated by the stall holder, ie. no agents? If we do, what consequences might that have for the market? Should we stick to a criteria of "edibility"? How might this effect the sale of cut flowers?

The Australian Farmers Market Association says that non-edible, ornamental plants are commonly permitted at farmers markets, "provided the life cycle/cultivation occurs on the property of the seller". This also applies to cut flowers. But our market can decide to draw a tighter definition, if we feel allowing ornamental plants could potentially undermine the core business of the market.

We'd like to hear your comments on this issue before we draft a bunch of new rules.

Staying open later

This is the issue that won't go away. It is multi-faceted and many of us have ideas about how to address it.

As such we're calling a stall holder meeting following next week's market (4th March), so everyone has a chance to contribute their ideas to find a solution.

Please come along to this meeting, as daylight saving will soon end and we need to have a strategy in place to keep the customers coming and to keep the market open past 5pm.

Regards,

Kate Raymond
Site Coordinator
on behalf of the
SAGE Farmers Market Committee

m: 0413 920 620
e: markets@sageproject.org.au