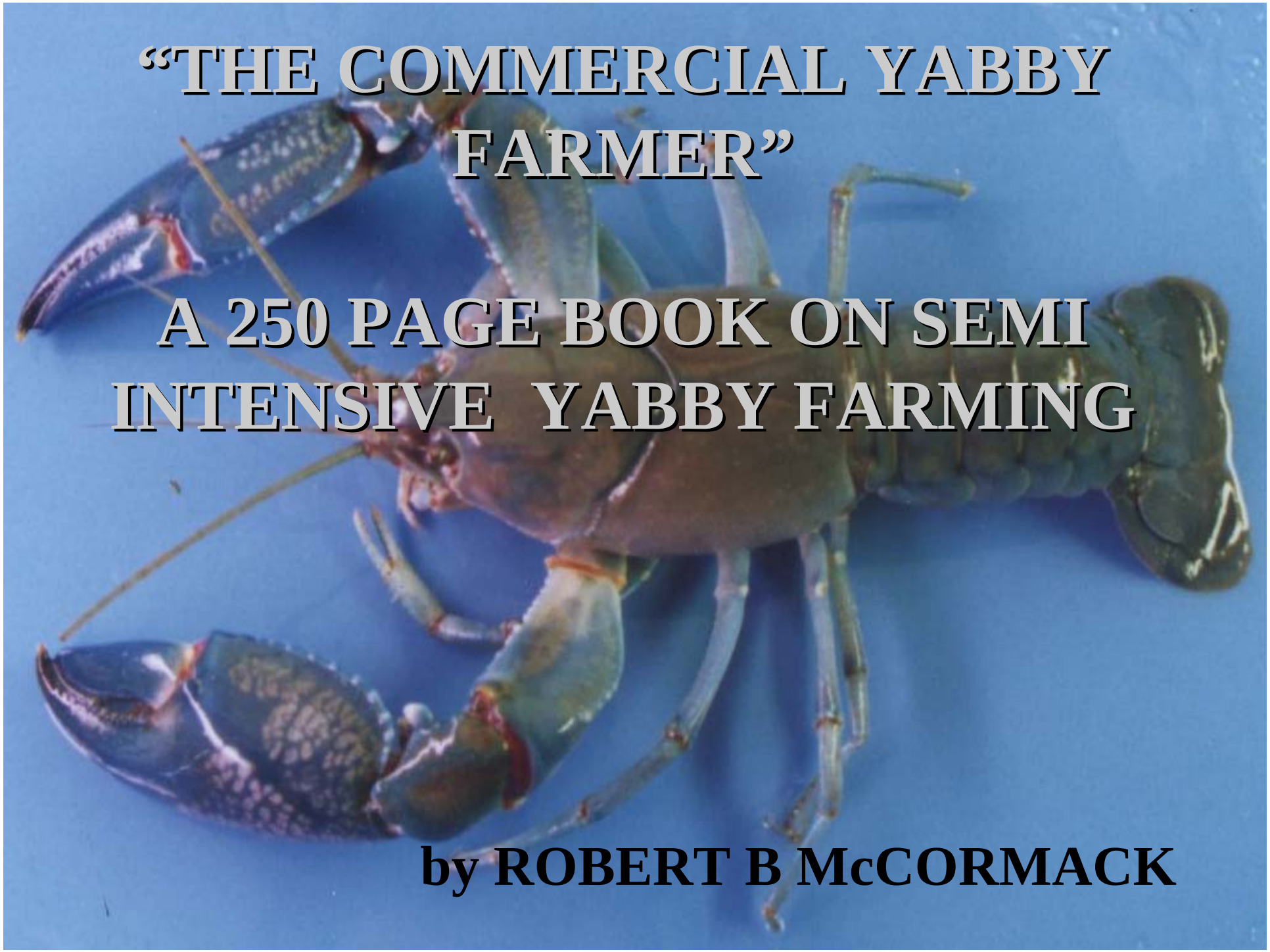


“THE COMMERCIAL YABBY FARMER”

A 250 PAGE BOOK ON SEMI INTENSIVE YABBY FARMING

by ROBERT B McCORMACK

POND SIZE

- **Pond Size is important, small ponds under 1000mtrs square surface area produce small yabbies, if you want big yabbies you need big ponds. Ponds over 5000m² are too big and unmanageable for semi intensive farming.**
- **You need ponds that are gravity drainable and large ponds just take too long to drain and effectively harvest any yabbies left in the pond. Drainable ponds are a must to effectively control yabby populations and predators.**

SHALLOW

- Yabbies only use floor space, not a water column so shallow is good.
- Yabbies are cold blooded animals, the warmer the water the faster their metabolism goes and the faster they grow. Shallow water heats rapidly in the sun.
- Shallow water does not stratify (reducing oxygen at the bottom).
- 600mm is the minimum depth or predation from birds is a serious concern.
- 900mm the preffered depth

TURBID

- Essential to have silts/clays in suspension to give you turbid water.
- Turbid water blocks sunlight penetration into the water column reducing algal populations and water quality fluctuations.
- Sunlight impacts on clay particles in suspension which heats your water.
- Yabbies feed during the day in turbid water so grow fast. In clear water hide during day and feed only at night.
- Harvesting can be done during the day in turbid water. In clear water only at night as yabbies will hide during the day.

TURBID (continued)

- **Burrowing is essential in clear water for yabbies to hide, in turbid water not required.**
- **Harder for predators to find yabbies in turbid water.**
- **Only high densities of yabbies will be achieved in turbid water. In clear water yabbies can see each other and one raises a claw then the other raises a claw and a fight will break out. This aggression is contagious and the whole population becomes aggressive and cannibalistic. In turbid water the density of yabbies can increase 10 fold if food is available as the yabbies can not see each other and must feel each other up with their antenna. Once they have felt each other up they are good mates and get along just fine.**

CONSTANT WATER LEVEL

- **It is essential that little variation in water levels occur in yabby ponds.**
- **Yabbies are creatures that have evolved in Australia which has extremes in climate. In the wild if water levels drop then yabbies start burrowing. In your ponds if water levels start to drop the yabbies will burrow. You do not want them wasting energy digging holes you want them sitting around growing large and fat.**

WATER QUALITY

- **Good water quality means healthy happy yabbies.**
- **Good water quality means hungry fast growing yabbies. If the water quality is not good yabbies stop feeding and become susceptible to stress and pathogens.**

FOOD

- No food no growth.
- In the wild when food becomes short, the large yabbies start eating the small yabbies and the population will be reduced to match the food supply.
- Pond bottom needs to be covered with a layer of old hay prior to flooding with water. This hay is the main food source for yabbies.
- Supplemental food in the form of pellets are required to be feed 6 days per week at a rate of 0.5% biomass/day.

SHELTER

- **The more shelter the more yabbies you can have.**
- **Yabbies are climbing animals and will climb structures up into the water column.**
- **Caution needs to be taken with the type of shelter used**

PREDATORS

- **Protection from predation is important. Cormorants, water rats, eels and fish are all major predators.**
- **Bird netting or protectionis essential.**
- **Netting to keep the yabbies in the pond is essential.**

POND PREPARATION

- **ADD HAY AT RATE MAX 150 BALES/Ha**
- **ADD LIME**
- **ADD WATER**

STOCKING

- **STOCK WITH YABBIES AT 5gram MIN and 30gram MAX SIZE**
- **STOCK WITH YABBIES ALL CLOSE TO SAME SIZE**
- **STOCK AT RATE OF 2/m²**

FEEDING

- **HAY IN POND IS BASE FOOD SOURCE**
- **ADD EXTRA BALE EACH MONTH**
- **ADD PELLETS AT 0.5% (half of one %) BIOMASS/DAY - 6 DAYS/WEEK**

GROWTH

- **20 GRAM to 100gram in 4 – 5 MONTHS**
- **MALES GROW FASTER THAN FEMALES**
- **SINGLE SEX PONDS ARE GOOD IF POSSIBLE**

HARVEST

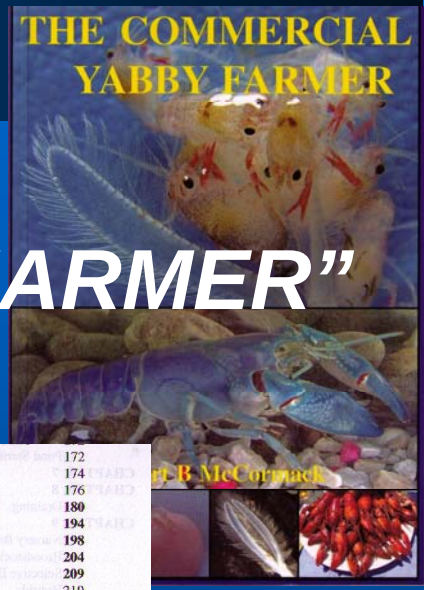
- BAITED TRAPS
- SPECIAL NO RING OPERA HOUSE TRAPS
- CATCH LARGEST FIRST
- BREEDING HAS OCCURRED
- DRAIN HARVEST

PRODUCTION RETURNS

- **2 CROPS/YEAR**
- **MORTALITY OF INITIAL STOCK 10 – 30%**
- **AT 30% MORTALITY & 2 CROPS = 2500Kgs/Ha/year**

For all the information

Buy *"THE COMMERCIAL YABBY FARMER"*



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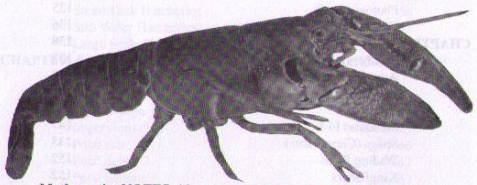

Mathematics NOTES (these may be helpful later on in the book)

1000 microns = 1 millimetre (mm)
1000 mm = 1 metre (mtr)
1 hectare = 10,000 square metres (m²)
1 hectare = 2.471 acres
1 cubic metre = 1,000 litres (ltrs)
1,000 litres = 1 tonne
1000 millilitres = 1 litre
1,000,000 litres = 1 megalitre (ML)
1,000 grams = 1 kilogram (kg)
1,000 kgs = 1 tonne

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