



HISTORY OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSHROOM INDUSTRY

The first commercial attempts to grow mushrooms in Australia were in 1933 – in open fields in raised beds covered in straw and hessian bags.

The first growing houses of any size were disused railway tunnels in Sydney, including the then incomplete Circular Quay – StJames line.

Mushroom growers began outdoor cultivation in the Hills and Hawkesbury districts outside Sydney in the mid-1930's.

These locations were selected because:

- of closeness to a migrant camp for labour supplies and growing expertise;

- raw materials for compost preparation (eg straw from the expanding racing industry) could be obtained locally;
- they had access to a large and willing labour force;
- they were close to the burgeoning market of Sydney.

Since then, the industry has become much more sophisticated.

Crops are now produced in sophisticated purpose-built growing rooms and there are farms in many locations across Australia.

