



**PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
PRELIMINARY
1994-95**

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Australian Statistician**

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CATALOGUE NO. 7111.4

August 1995

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Preliminary estimates for South Australia from the 1994-95 Agricultural Census show:

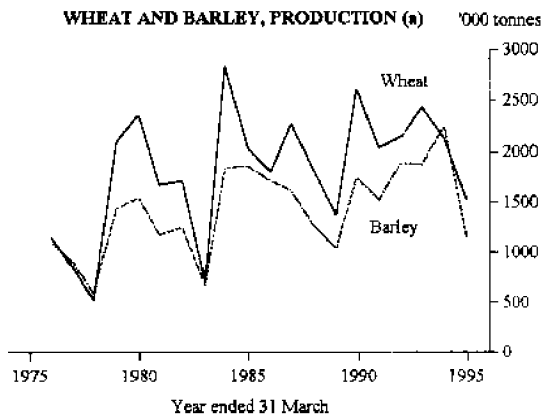
CROPS

Wheat

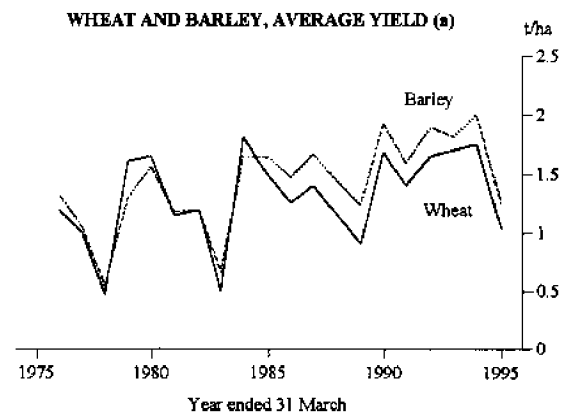
Although the area of wheat planted in 1994-95 was up 21 per cent to 1,469 thousand hectares from 1,216 thousand hectares in 1993-94, production fell 29 per cent from 2,121 thousand tonnes in 1993-94 to 1,507 thousand tonnes in 1994-95. This was reflected in the average yield which was 1.0 tonne per hectare, compared with 1.7 tonnes per hectare in the three previous years.

Barley

The area of barley in 1994-95 fell by 18 per cent to 911 thousand hectares from 1,115 thousand hectares in 1993-94. Production was 49 per cent lower at 1,138.7 thousand tonnes in 1994-95. The average yield decreased from 2.0 tonnes per hectare to 1.2 tonnes per hectare.



(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

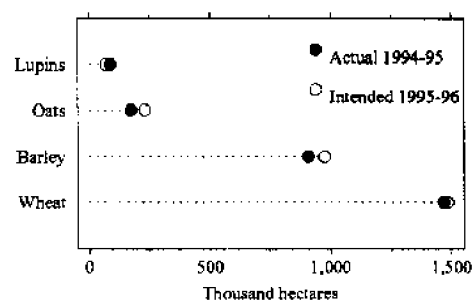


(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

Intended sowings

Growers reported that total intended sowings of the main cereal crops in 1995-96 are higher than for the previous year. The area intended to be sown for barley is 976 thousand hectares, up 6 per cent on the figure for the previous year and 7 per cent greater than actual sowings in 1994-95. For wheat, growers reported that they intend to sow 1,485 thousand hectares, up 5 per cent on the previous year's expectations and 1 per cent greater than actual sowings. For oats, growers intend to sow 232 thousand hectares, up 16 per cent on 1994-95 intended sowings and 33 per cent higher than actual sowings in 1994-95.

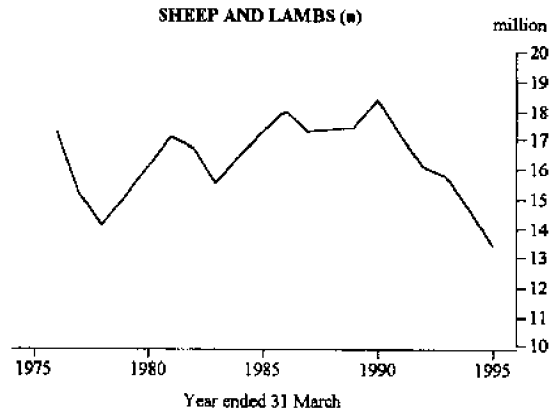
Expectations for planting of lupins have declined by 16 per cent. The expected plantings of lupins in 1995-96 are 2 per cent lower than actual plantings in 1994-95.

ACTUAL SOWINGS FOR 1994-95 AND
INTENDED SOWINGS FOR 1995-96 FOR ALL PURPOSES

LIVESTOCK

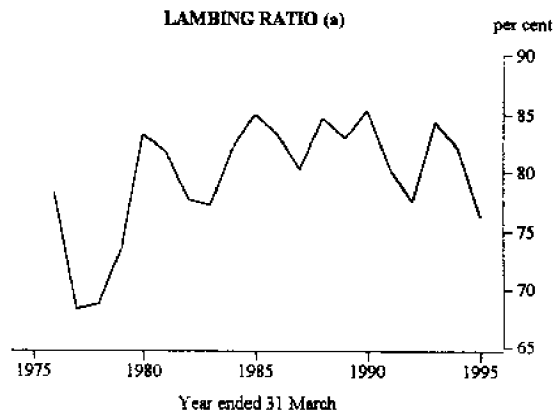
Sheep and lambs

The preliminary estimate for the total flock of sheep and lambs at 31 March 1995 was 13.4 million. This was 9 per cent down on 1994. There were 12 per cent fewer lambs and hoggets aged under one year and 8 per cent fewer other sheep.



(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

There were 6.5 million sheep mated during the year ended March 1995. From these matings 4.9 million lambs were marked. While matings fell by 4 per cent the number marked fell by 11 per cent. For the 1993-94 season, 82 per cent of matings resulted in lambs being marked. This ratio fell to 76 per cent in 1994-95.

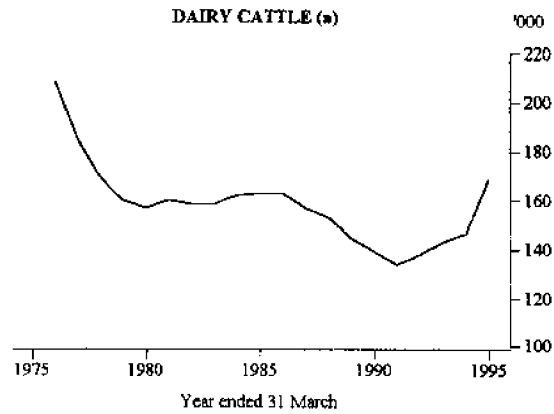


(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

Farmers' forecast of intended matings of ewes to rams has fallen 7 per cent from 6.9 million in 1995 to 6.4 million in 1996.

Dairy cattle

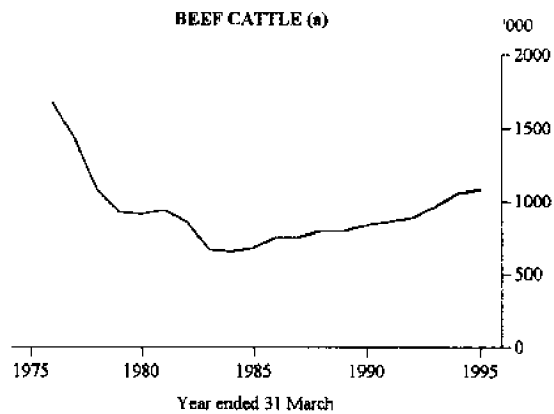
The South Australian dairy cattle herd increased by 15 per cent from 147 thousand at 31 March 1994 to 169 thousand at 31 March 1995. The number of dairy cattle has increased each year since 1991.



(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

Beef cattle

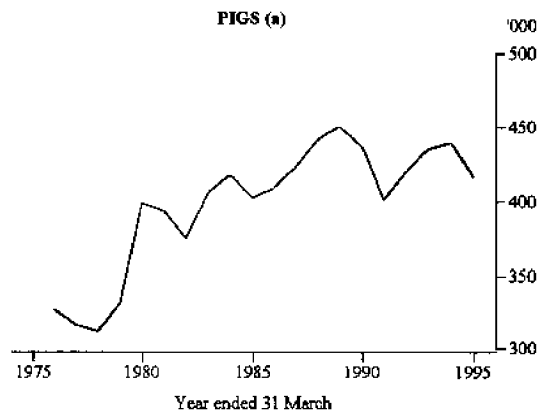
Beef cattle numbers increased by 2 per cent during the year ended 31 March 1995 to 1.1 million. Bulls and bull calves for service rose 13 per cent, while other calves rose by 7 per cent. Cows and heifers aged over one year fell by 5 per cent.



(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

Pigs

There was a 6 per cent fall in the preliminary estimate of pigs recorded at 31 March 1994. Numbers fell to the lowest level since 1991, after increasing over the three previous years.



(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

PRINCIPAL CROPS

TABLE 1. AREA INTENDED TO BE SOWN TO CEREAL CROPS FOR ALL PURPOSES (a), YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 1995 TO 1996

	<i>Intended sowings</i>	<i>Actual sowings</i>	<i>Intended sowings</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>Standard error</i>
	<i>1995</i>	<i>1995p</i>	<i>1996p</i>	<i>1996p over 1995 (%) (b)</i>	<i>(%) (c)</i>
<i>'000 hectares</i>					
Barley	919.6	911.0	976.0	6.1	0.9
Oats	200.4	173.8	232.0	15.8	2.2
Wheat	1,418.3	1,468.7	1,485.1	4.7	0.8
Lupins	100.7	86.7	84.6	-16.0	4.7

(a) The area intended to be sown during 1996 is presented as a possible basis for forecasting the total area to be sown for that season. But, because of the possibility of later changes in intention caused by unforeseen circumstances such as adverse climatic or economic conditions, this estimate may not necessarily be the area actually sown during the current season.

(b) Percentage change of 1996 intended sowings over 1995 intended sowings.

(c) Standard errors are calculated on 1996 preliminary estimates for intended sowings.

TABLE 2. AREA AND PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL CROPS, YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 1992 TO 1995 (a)

	<i>1992</i>	<i>1993</i>	<i>1994</i>	<i>1995p</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>Standard error</i>
					<i>1995p over 1994 (%) (b)</i>	<i>(%) (b)</i>
<i>Area ('000 hectares)</i>						
Cereals for grain						
Barley	999.2	1,023.3	1,115.3	911.0	-18.3	0.8
Oats	129.3	122.9	101.5	99.0	-2.5	3.3
Wheat	1,296.8	1,419.5	1,216.0	1,468.7	20.8	0.9
Other crops						
Lupins	47.8	57.6	69.6	86.7	24.6	2.6
<i>Production ('000 tonnes)</i>						
Cereals for grain						
Barley	1,881.5	1,855.3	2,242.4	1,138.7	-49.2	1.0
Oats	172.5	164.5	135.1	92.2	-31.8	3.5
Wheat	2,141.0	2,421.2	2,121.1	1,507.3	-28.9	1.0
Other crops						
Lupins	55.6	97.4	82.0	55.5	-32.3	3.1
<i>Yield (tonnes per hectare)</i>						
Cereals for grain						
Barley	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.2	-40.0	n.a.
Oats	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.9	-30.8	n.a.
Wheat	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.0	-41.2	n.a.
Other crops						
Lupins	1.2	1.7	1.2	0.6	-50.0	n.a.

(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Standard errors are calculated on the 1995 preliminary estimates for area and production of principal crops.

LIVESTOCK

TABLE 3. SHEEP, YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 1992 TO 1995 (a)

	1992	1993	1994	1995p	Change	Standard error
					1995p over 1994 (%)	
	(000)					
Lambs and hoggets under one year	3,285.8	3,550.8	3,506.9	3,084.9	-12.0	1.3
Other sheep	12,786.3	12,150.9	11,172.2	10,281.5	-8.0	0.5
Total	16,072.1	15,701.8	14,679.1	13,366.4	-8.9	1.9

(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Standard errors are calculated on the 1995 preliminary estimate of sheep numbers.

TABLE 4. MATINGS AND LAMBINGS, YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 1993 TO 1996 (a)

	1993	1994	1995	1996p	Standard error
					(%) (b)
	(000)				
Farmers' forecast of intended matings of ewes for lambing					
To merino rams	5,129.9	4,948.2	4,599.3	4,448.4	0.8
To rams of other breeds	1,933.1	2,108.0	2,306.3	1,955.5	1.2
Total intended matings	7,063.1	7,056.2	6,905.6	6,403.9	2.0
Actual matings	6,853.7	6,751.9	6,450.3p	n.y.a.	n.a.
Lambs marked	5,778.3	5,549.8	4,915.0p	n.y.a.	n.a.
	Per cent				
Actual matings as a percentage of intended matings	97.0	95.7	93.4p	n.a.	n.a.
Lambs marked as a percentage of Actual matings	84.3	82.2	76.2p	n.a.	n.a.

(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Standard errors are calculated on the 1996 preliminary estimates for intended matings.

TABLE 5. CATTLE, YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 1992 TO 1995 (a)

	1992	1993	1994	1995p	Change	Standard error
					1995p over 1994 (%)	
	(000)					
Dairy cattle						
Cows, in milk and dry	88.8	92.3	93.8	109.5	16.7	2.5
Bulls and bull calves for service	1.4	1.5	1.6	59.0	11.7	2.4
Heifers and heifer calves	46.9	48.5	51.2			
Total dairy cattle	137.1	142.3	146.6	168.5	14.9	4.9
Beef cattle						
Bulls and bull calves for service	24.4	26.4	27.9	31.6	13.3	2.7
Other calves one year and under	238.7	238.3	276.2	295.0	6.8	2.8
Cows and heifers, one year and over						
For beef and herd replacement	434.9	435.3	479.1	550.2	-4.5	2.0
Other		82.3	97.1			
Other cattle	181.3	179.5	175.3	203.6	16.1	3.4
Total beef cattle	879.3	961.9	1,055.6	1,080.4	2.3	10.9
Total all cattle	1,016.5	1,104.2	1,202.2	1,248.9	3.9	15.8

(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Standard errors are calculated on the 1995 preliminary estimates for cattle numbers.

TABLE 6. PIGS, YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 1992 TO 1995 (a)

	1992	1993	1994	1995p	Change 1995p over 1994 (%)	Standard error (%) (b)
		(000)				
Total pigs	420.0	434.7	439.8	415.6	-5.5	3.5

(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Standard errors are calculated on 1995 preliminary estimates for pig numbers.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

1. This publication contains preliminary agricultural estimates for the 1994-95 season, together with estimates of intended sowings of principal crops and intended ewe matings for the forthcoming season. Comparative data for the three previous years is also included.

Scope and coverage

2. From 1986-87 to 1990-91 the scope of the Census included those establishments undertaking agricultural activity and having an estimated value of agricultural operations (EVAO) of \$20,000 or more. Prior to 1986-87 the EVAO cut-off was \$2,500 or more. From 1991-92 to 1992-93, only those establishments with an EVAO of \$22,500 or more were included.

3. From 1993-94 the census is based on a scope of \$5,000 or more EVAO.

4. The figures shown in tables in this publication for 1993-94 and 1994-95 are based on the \$5,000 EVAO cut-off. The figures for 1991-92 and 1992-93 have not been adjusted to a \$5,000 EVAO basis and therefore are not comparable with later years. The data presented in the graphs are based on the scope of the collection which applied at the time.

Reliability of estimates

5. Since the estimates are based on a proportion (approximately 40%) of agricultural establishments selected for survey in 1994-95, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all units had been included.

6. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied because only a sample of units was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all units had been included and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

7. In this publication, sampling variability is measured by the relative standard error which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers. The relative standard error is a useful measure, in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling. It avoids the need to refer also to the size of the estimate.

8. As an example of the above, if a sample gives an estimate of 1,000 hectares and the relative standard error is five per cent then there would be two chances in three that, if all units were included, a figure within the range of 950 to 1,050 hectares would have been obtained. There would also be nineteen chances in twenty that the figure would lie within the range 900 to 1,100 hectares.

Symbols

kg	kilograms
n.a.	not available
n.y.a.	not yet available
p	preliminary - figure or series
t	tonnes
t/ha	tonnes per hectare

General

9. Revised estimates will be available in mid September this year when most of the Agricultural Census returns have been processed. Final results will be published early in 1996.

10. The ABS has a more detailed agricultural statistics on MS-DOS compatible floppy disk, compact disk, microfiche and magnetic tape. AgStats on floppy disk and compact disk offers a wider range of data aggregated at a smaller geographical areas than those generally available in printed publications. Both systems come complete with an easy-to-use, menu-driven interrogation facility.

11. Current publications and other standard products and services are listed in the Catalogue of Publications (1101.0). The catalogue is available from any ABS office.



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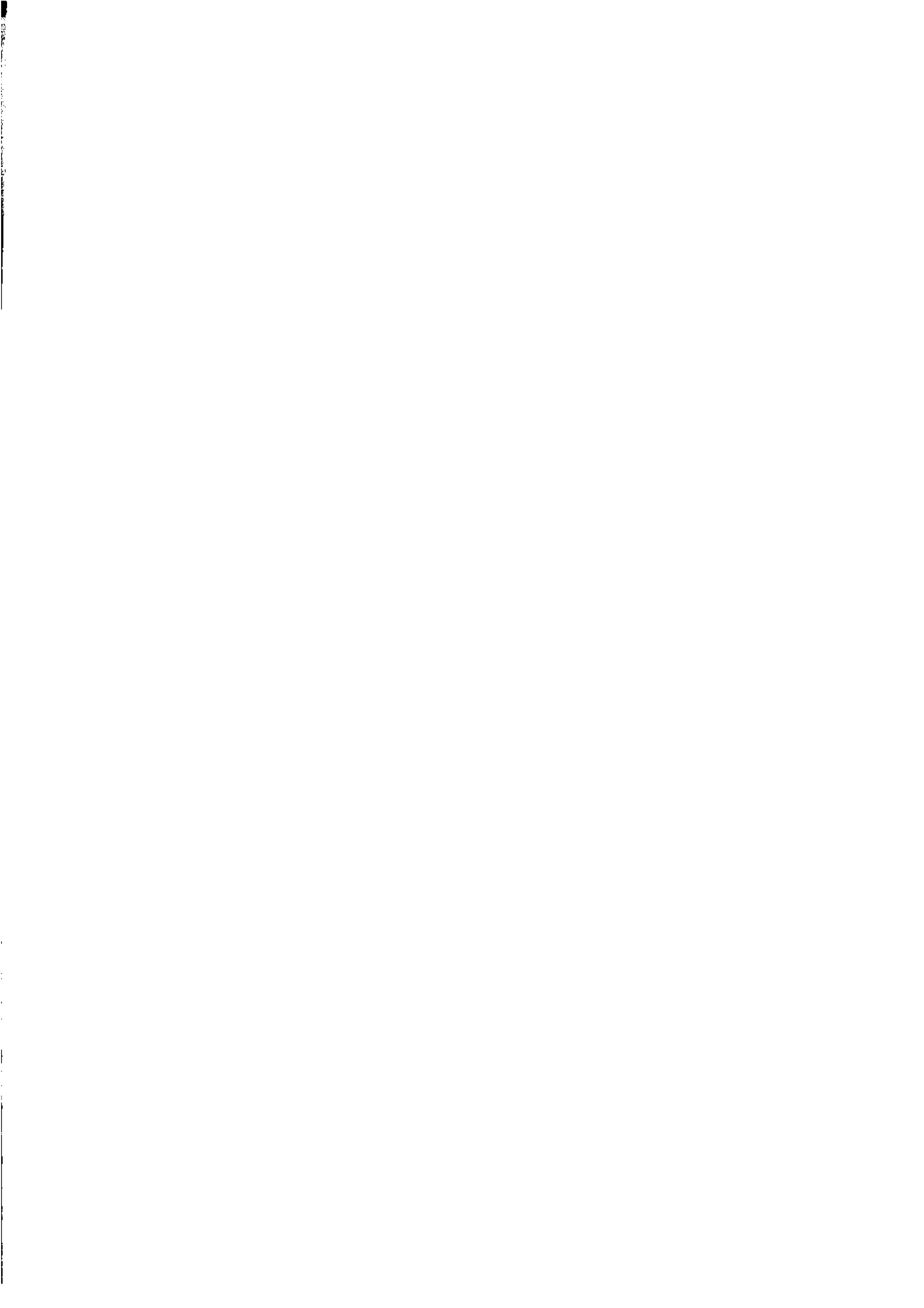
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Recommended retail price: \$11.50



2711140007948

ISSN 0729-8684