

7/8
FORESTS DEPARTMENT.

12-5

e 10186/38

7/8

FILE NO.
939

" R "

Subject: *Stem Canker Disease of*
Red Flowering Gums

THIS SHEET NOT TO BE WRITTEN ON.

for immediate transfer to the annu-
annuation fund. It was proposed
liquidate the remaining liability over a
number of years.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr.
Latham) secured the adjournment of the
debate.

RED-FLOWERING GUMS.

Fighting Disease in King's Park.

The canker disease which has taken
severe toll of the red-flowering gums in
the metropolitan area has been the sub-
ject of continuous research in a co-opera-
tive effort on the part of the Agricultural
Department and the King's Park Board.
A series of experiments was started in
an effort to find a variety of red-flower-
ing gum that was immune or highly re-
sistant to the disease and to propagate
from it. A report on the experiments
was received by the King's Park Board
last week.

The experiments were entrusted to the
Government Plant Pathologist (Mr. W.
P. C. Smith) and the superintendent of
King's Park (Mr. J. E. Watson), and
most of them were carried out in King's
Park. At the outset, it was found that
so many trees were diseased that their
removal was necessary. Owing to the
prevalence of disease, and the bad habit
of growth and almost white flowers of
some trees, only 24 out of a total of 180
examined were deemed suitable for the
experiments.

In his report, Mr. Smith stated that
most of the trees had proved susceptible,
some had shown considerable resistance
to infection, and a very few appeared
immune. The board had permitted arti-
ficial inoculation experiments on some
healthy red-flowering gum trees in the
park with desirable colour and habit of
growth, to discover without delay immune
or resistant trees which would then serve
for the propagation of the species by
buds, grafts or cuttings. On March 15
and 16 last he had artificially inoculated
the 24 healthy trees selected in three
areas by Mr. Watson. Eight separate
inoculations were made, the fungus
being applied through slight wounds, and
24 control inoculations also were applied.
In addition, to check the pathogenicity of
the fungal cultures used, inoculations of
known susceptible trees also were done.

Examinations on October 31 and No-
vember 15, continued the report, revealed
that six trees (whose colours were very
dark red, red, and pink) were, to say the
least, very highly resistant compared
with the remainder, and that they should
be carefully reserved for propagation
purposes. It had been found that propa-
gation of resistant varieties by budding
on red-flowering gum stocks could be
done, and more recent experiments indi-
cated that grafting the red-flowering gum
on red gum (marri) stocks might be pos-
sible, while further work on the question
of propagation by cuttings was proceed-
ing. The board was asked to permit the
use of its glasshouse to assist the propa-
gation studies, and to arrange for the
planting in large receptacles at the nurs-
ery of a number of seedling red-flowering
gums and red gums.

BITTEN BY A SNAKE.

When working in the Karrakatta Ceme-
tery on Wednesday, Jack Brigatti (19),
of Forrest-street, North Perth, an em-
ployee of the Cemetery Board, was bitten
on the calf of his left leg by a snake,
believed to have been a tiger snake.

He was taken in a private motor car
to the Perth Hospital and treated for the
bite and a careful watch was kept on
him in the observation ward until yes-
terday morning, when a St. John Am-
bulance took him to a private hospital
for further treatment. His condition
last night was reported to be satisfac-
tory.

West Australian

28th or 29th / 11/34.

Mr J. H. Day

- 1 Date of original planting of Avenue - 1920
 - 2 Stem canker disease noticed about 1925 when all affected trees were replaced. Subsequently all trees were replaced as they became diseased.
 - 3 No failures noticed for among the replants of several years.
-

3/6/40

Went to Watson King Park
a few ^{Red} seed collected from R.F. Gum
Reserve between Port & Kent Rivers & about
6 miles north of Dunk. Thomas Rd.

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

6

Correspondents will greatly facilitate the transaction of their business by:

Confining each letter to one subject.

Writing on one side only of the paper.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

PERTH.....26th April, 1940.

In replying please quote

Forester J.A. Thomson,
Forest Department,
DENMARK.

Re. Canker Disease of Red Flowering Gums.

With reference to the above disease, I have to advise that I shall be visiting the Nornalup Area in company with Mr. J. Watson, Secretary of the King's Park Board on Thursday, the 9th of May. I have approached Mr. Kessell concerning this matter and he has been good enough to advise me that he will make your services available in order to help with this inspection.

I should deem it a favour, therefore, if you would meet us in Denmark on the 9th of May, so that we can once again inspect the Nornalup trees.

With kind regards,

D. Hass Smith

PLANT PATHOLOGIST.

M. G.
11/5/40

Glennmark

1st May

00

Plant Pathologist

Dept of Agriculture Perth

The Canker Disease of Red
Flowering Gum

Dear Sir

Replying to your letter
of 30th ult. I wish to advise that
I will expect you & Mr. A. T. Brown
to be in Glennmark on Thursday
9th May so that we can proceed
to the Red Flowering Gum Reserve.
Yours faithfully
J. M. Thomson

R. F. Gums Middleton Rd Albany

29/3/40 Mr Glazebrook, nurseryman of
Middleton Rd Albany stated to me that

- 1/ R. F. Gums started to die soon after planting
- 2/ " " replantings owing to deaths were
30-40 per year
- 3/ Some plants were obtained from him &
some from Perth nurseries
Mr Glazebrook's seed was obtained from
various sources, as follows: - from Bow River
Middleton Rd avenue, & Perth.
- 4/ No attempt has ever been made to eradicate
the disease & new trees were replanted
as others died.

FW

Henmark

1st April 00

Mr. J. H. May
Middleton Rd. Albany

Dear Sir

The Red Flowering Gum trees
planted along Middleton Road are
as you know suffering from a disease
identical with the Stem-borer disease
found in the R.F. Gum avenues planted
in Kings Park.

Research work is being carried out
with the object of eradicating the disease
about which very little is known.

I understand that you ^{were} instrumental
in having the Middleton Road trees
~~planted~~ planted & have taken an
active interest in their growth.

Could you therefore let me know
the following particulars

1. Date that original avenue was planted
2. How soon after planting was disease
first noticed
3. How soon after planting were fresh
trees replanted to replace of deaths.
4. About what were average yearly number
of trees re-planted owing to deaths
5. Do you know of any individual trees
which were planted in the original lot.

Any information you can give would be
much appreciated. Yours faithfully

J. H. Thomson

Albany

20th April 1910

Mr J. H. Klay
"Mount" Middleton Rd
Albany.

Dear Mr Klay

Thank you for your
letter of 16th inst & the helpful information
you have given.

When I am next in Albany
I will call on you & would
be very pleased to inspect some
of the trees with you in person.

Yours faithfully
J. R. Thomson

Inspect.

- 1 Any original (1920) trees.
- 2 Last trees replanted.

"MEERUT,"

Middleton Road,
ALBANY, W.A.

J. A. Thomas Esq

April 16 1940

Demerit

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 1st inst came duly to hand, but as I have been laid up for a fortnight could not reply sooner. Re Red Blanking Gums. The Avenue was planted in 1920 about 5 years later I noticed the custer referred to, so had the trees removed and replaced, but as this was happening rather often I called a meeting of the expert gardeners of the town to discuss the matter. After careful deliberation we decided to replace all, and every subsequent tree as I showed signs of decay, with Platanus trees. The Platanus seem to be doing fairly well, but I have not noticed any more failures among the gums for several years now. The old original trees are well advanced now and look quite good. Of course I have nothing to do with the Avenue now as it was taken over by the Council about 3 years ago, so cannot speak too definitely on the matter. All I worry about now is the painting of the name plates etc. The gums that were planted to replace the one that died, seem to have come all right.

Yours sincerely
H. J. Day

I have marked the matter down

per
20.4.40

The Kings Park Board.

TELEPHONE B 1065

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY

Kings Park,

Perth, 16th February 1940.

Forester J. Thompson,
Forests Dept.,
DENMARK

Dear Sir,

I have heard from a person who recently visited Albany that the disease that has taken such a severe toll of the red flowering gums in the Metropolitan area is now evident in this tree in your town.

As experiments are being carried out in Kings Park in an effort to combat the disease I should be pleased if you could inform me if you are aware of any disease in your trees, as the spread of the disease to places outside the Metropolitan area would have a bearing on the experiments that are being conducted.

Yours faithfully,

J. G. Watson
Secretary

Dear Jack

I have sent you this copy of a letter to the Town Clerk Albany, could you follow it up if you are in Albany?

Have you seen any trace of the disease in the lush area I gave Cass Smith some cautions to read to you for identification purposes

Regards

J. G. Watson

*J.G.W.
21-2-40*

Kleinmark

21st Feb

90

The Secretary

-Kings Park Branch

Re Akem Canker Disease - R.E. Guin

Dear Sir

I have your letter of 16th inst
to hand & in reply have to advise that
the Red Flowering Gum planted in
Albany along Middleton Road are
in a pretty bad way due to the above
disease.

I have not observed any signs
of this disease in the natural habitat of
the R.E. Guin.

Please advise me upon what series
I could best assist you in this matter.

When I am next in Albany I will obtain
some specimens ^{from} the disease affected
trees & forward for your examination.
This will not be for several weeks however.

Yours faithfully

J.R. Thomson

Dear Jack

The blue waters of the Niagara must seem
very restful, from the shaded lawns of Kings
Park. I understand, however that the habit
of dropping matches is prevalent even in those
well ordered parts, so you can raise a thirst now
& again. Hope to see you in Keweenaw in May
the 10th & 12th weeks. 1911

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

6

Correspondents will greatly facilitate the transaction of their business by:

Confining each letter to one subject.

Writing on one side only of the paper.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

PERTH, 14th March, 1939.

FORESTER J.A. THOMSON,

In replying please quote

DENMARK.

Re. Canker Disease on Red Flowering Gums.

I have to acknowledge your letter of the 10th instant and note, with pleasure, that the type specimens of the red flowering gum canker disease arrived safely, and that you have been able to hand a portion of these specimens to Mr. Saw of Bowbridge.

I appreciate your offer of assistance very greatly and hope that as a result of this co-operation we shall be able to come to some conclusion concerning the origin of this trouble.

W. H. Smith

PLANT PATHOLOGIST.

Denmark

10th March 9

Mr W. P. Cresswell
Plant Pathologist

Dear Sir

I was pleased to receive from you specimens of stem canker disease of Red Flowering Gums & your covering letter of 28th ult.

I will be glad to give you any assistance I can in this matter & am keeping the local R. F. Gum under observation.

Several of the specimens have been sent on to Mr. Law of Bow Bridge.

Yours sincerely

J. R. Thomson

Jones St.

Kenmark

10th March 9

Mr Bert Saw

Bow Bridge

Re Stem Canker Disease of Red
Flowering Quince

Dear Mr Saw

I am forwarding
to you per Charlie Offer a parcel containing
several specimens of above sent me by
Mr Cass Smith with a request to hand
you some specimens

These specimens are sterilised.

Mr Smith states that during auto-
claving the typical white spore stage
on the surface of the cankers was largely
destroyed, but the general shape should
serve as a reliable guide to enable
the disease to be identified should
any suspicious looking specimens
be observed in this locality.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

J. H. Thomson

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Correspondents will greatly facilitate the transaction of their business by:
Confining each letter to one subject.
Writing on one side only of the paper.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

PERTH, 28th February, 1939.

In replying please quote

.....Forester Thomson,.....

.....DENMARK......

Dear Sir,

re Stem Canker Disease of Red Flowering Gums

As promised during my recent visit to Denmark, I am enclosing under separate cover sterilised type specimens of the Red Flowering Gum Canker disease, obtained from King's Park. I am afraid that during autoclaving the typical white spore stage, on the surface of the Cankers, was largely destroyed, but the general shape should serve as a reliable guide to enable you to identify the disease should any suspicious looking symptoms be observed in the Denmark area.

With many thanks for the courtesy extended to me on my recent visit, and for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

W. H. H. Smith

PLANT PATHOLOGIST

P.S. Mr. Bert Saw of Bow Bridge would also be interested in the specimens.

W. H. H. Smith
6-3-39.

FORESTS DEPARTMENT, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Form F.D.79.

TO THE OFFICER IN CHARGE,

DENMARK

Divisional } Office.
District }

FORESTER THOMSON

For attention,

District.

SUBJECT:

Red Flowering Gums.



Head Office Reference.....

Local Office Reference.....

Mr. Cass Smith, Acting Government Plant Pathologist, and Mr. Sharp, Tobacco Adviser, will be visiting Denmark next week. They will stay at the Denmark Hotel on Wednesday night and hope to inspect the areas where red flowering gums (*Eucalyptus ficifolia*) can be found in ~~the~~ natural habitat.

Unless other engagements prevent you, will you please call at the Hotel on Wednesday evening and give what information you can to the officers referred to, that will assist them in their investigation, accompanying them to the areas if possible *on Thursday*. If you are unable to see them at the Hotel on Wednesday evening, will you please leave a note ~~there~~ *for them* with the best information you can directing them to the areas where Red flowering gums may be now found.

They will be leaving Perth first thing on Monday morning.


CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS 

PERTH.
5.1.39.
CH/BP.

7/12/38
[Handwritten signature]