



7/8

FORESTS DEPARTMENT.

12-5

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7/8

FILE NO.
<del>939</del>

" R "

Subject: *Stem Canker Disease of*  
*Red Flowering Gum*

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 resis-  
tant 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 (marr) 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*

28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> / 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

Posted to Watson King Parks  
a few seeds collected from R.F. Gunn  
Reserve between Port Kent River & about  
6 miles north of Dunk. Thomas Rd.

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**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.S.  
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 26<sup>th</sup> ult. I wish to advise that  
I will expect you & Mr Watson  
to be in Glennmark on Thursday  
9<sup>th</sup> May so that we can proceed  
to the Red Flowering Gum Reserves.

J. M. Thomson

R. F. Gams Middleton Rd Albany

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

- 1 R. F. Gams 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.

AG

Denmark

1st April 00

Mr. J. H. Day  
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 Canker 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 <sup>were</sup> 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. D. Thomson

Albany

20<sup>th</sup> April 1900

Mr J. H. Kay  
Mount Middleton Rd  
Albany.

Dear Mr Kay

Thank you for your letter of 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

April 16 1940

J. A. Thomas Esq

Denmark

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 Blaney gums. The Avenue was planted in 1920 about 5 years later I noticed the canker 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 it showed signs of disease, with Platanus trees. The plagues 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 on. The gums that were planted to replace the one that died, seem to show some all right.

Yours sincerely  
H. J. Day

I must have made the mistake Dear

pas  
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 Leish area I gave Cars Smith some cautions to send to you for identification purposes*

*Regards*  
*J. G. Watson*

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

Wenmark

21<sup>st</sup> Feb

90

The Secretary

Kings Park Branch

16 Abchurch Lane - R. E. Gunn

Dear Sir

I have your letter of 16<sup>th</sup> inst. to hand & in reply have to advise that the Med. flowering Acorns 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. Gunn.

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

When I am next in Albany I will obtain some specimens <sup>from</sup> the disease affected trees & forward for your examination. This will not be for several weeks however.

Yours faithfully

J. K. 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 Cambridge in May.  
Chas. + Best wishes. 1/11

**GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.**

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**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. Cass Smith*

PLANT PATHOLOGIST.

Denmark

10<sup>th</sup> March 9

Mr. W. P. Casp Smith  
Plant Pathologist

Dear Sir

I was pleased to receive from you specimens of stem canker disease of Red Flowering Gums & your covering letter of 28<sup>th</sup> 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. Saw of Bow Bridge.

Yours sincerely  
J. R. Thomsen  
Jones Is.

Kenmark

10<sup>th</sup> March 9

Mr Bert Saw

Bow Bridge

Re Stem Canker Disease of Red  
Flowering Gunns

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

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**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. P. Smith*

PLANT PATHOLOGIST

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

*JAY*  
6-3-39.

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~~ 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.

*A. H. Kessell*  
CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS *[Signature]*

PERTH.  
5.1.39.  
CH/BP.

*7/12/38*  
*[Signature]*