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AGROFORESTRY UPDATE

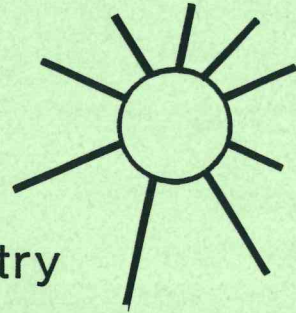
10 (May 1990)

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE

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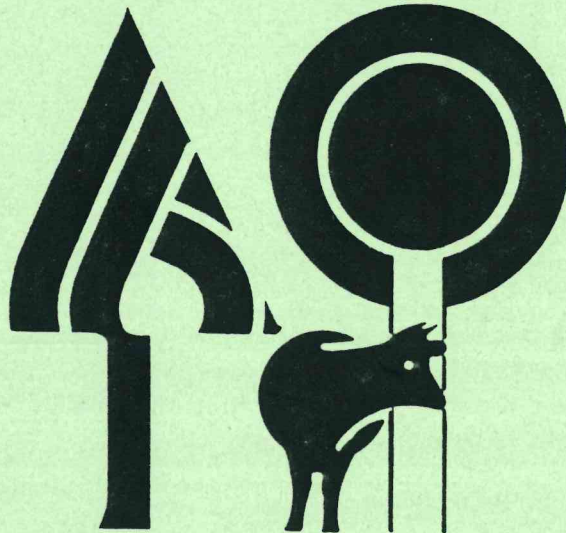


Agroforestry Update



Newsletter for Agroforestry

Researchers and Practitioners



Department of Conservation and Land Management

Department of Agriculture

C.S.I.R.O

Western Australia

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HEAL is subsidised by Greening Australia and other sponsors, so that fees paid by visitors are only used to pay for the time farmers and experts spend with groups. It is necessary to charge for the farmers' time, as some are spending so much time with groups that they have to employ extra labour during peak times to do the farm work that they would otherwise be doing themselves.

The fee structure is still flexible in the early stages of the project. HEAL will organise and run tours for any group, with or without transport, with or without meals, with or without expert guidance. Subsidised rates are available for school groups. Quotes can be obtained from the HEAL office. Documentation about the sites on the various itineraries is provided.

EUCALYPTS AND OTHER UNWANTED EXOTICS

David Bicknell

Department of Conservation and Land Management, Esperance, WA

There have been several surveys, and many observations that most Australians do not want large areas of exotic species impinging on the landscape.

Within the 'classical' agroforestry, this has meant that pine trees are not popular in some parts of the country, merely because they are not Australian. This form of chauvinism is becoming more localised, with the recent outcries against Tasmanian Bluegum monocultures in Western Australia being a good example.

Eucalypts, however, are not always the 'good guys'. Many overseas countries now have some concern over the exuberant growth and feeding habits of eucalypts in their exotic environment.

A report from The Guardian, June 22 1989, was titled "Greens and farmers fight the Eucalyptus tree". An accompanying photograph shows riot police on horses charging the protesting farmers - in Portugal.

As in Australia, the tree in question is not the primary problem; it is the land use that excludes primary producers from agricultural options that causes problems.

The use of any tree in agroforestry systems should be determined by its effectiveness in meeting the aims of the planting. If a local or Australian species does the job as well, it will generally be planted, in Australia. However, let's not get hung up on the idea that exotics have no place in the Australian landscape.