

PUBLIC ENQUIRIES

ABOUT 'CANKER'

"CANKER" is the term commonly used for dead areas of bark on twigs, branches and trunks of trees.

Caused by fungi or bacteria, cankers are characterised by sunken areas of bark, splits and kino exudation (a red gum-like substance).

Research Branch has received many inquiries recently about what could be canker diseases of wandoo and marri.

Some cankers develop slowly over many years, although the fungi which cause them are usually only active intermittently — the fungi take a fresh bite of the tree perhaps once a year.

The cankers eventually girdle the branches or stems and the damage is evident once the leaves of the gridded branches turn brown.

The eucalypts produce kino, a dark red substance often seen bleeding down their bark, when they are injured or attacked by insects or fungi.

Kino is a soup of poly-

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phenols with some antibi-
otic properties.

Maiden's "The Useful Plants of Australia", first published in 1889, gives recipes for mixing kino with distilled water for use in the treatment of diarrhea and nose bleeds.

A cross section of a perennial canker often will reveal kino veins, showing that the tree has reacted each year to the fungal attack.

Unfortunately, kino veins are one of the worst wood defects in eucalypts.

Marri is one of the most sensitive species to kino production.

Marri timber is of good quality when free of veins, but this is relatively rare.

The extent of the canker problem is yet to be assessed but it is unfortunate if we have fungi as well as borers increasing the incidence of kino veins.



A typical canker on a tree near Manjimup.



WILDLIFE officer Gueho with a truck illegally g

Illega

THE few weeks before were hectic for Wildlife W.A. with people being of the illegal possession of and fauna.

In one case, Doug Coughran Mahoney followed up paper advertisement offering grey galahs for sale.

Their investigation revealed week-old birds had been taken nests, so young they only feathers.

It is illegal to remove bird nest when they are too young themselves.

The birds were seized and At the time, the fine for

WA's kangaroo quota

The Federal Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment, Barry Cohen, announced the 1986 kangaroo quotas on January 22.

For WA, they are:

garoos, 50,000 Western Grey Kangaroos and 10,000 Euros.

The quota for the Western Grey Kangaroo and the Euro remained unchanged

The quota for the Red Kangaroo increases by 20,000, in accordance with the recommendations of the WA Kangaroo Management Advisory Committee.

— KEIRAN