

Sandalwood conservation

A 10-YEAR plan that will see Indian sandalwood plantations being developed in the Ord River Irrigation area, was announced recently by Environment Minister Bob Pearce.

"The plan will see the eventual reduction of harvesting of native sandalwood, while maintaining a viable export industry, he said.

"Sandalwood harvesting was one of WA's earliest export industries, dating from 1845, with south-east Asia the main market for this highly valued wood.

Both dead and green sandalwood trees are harvested, mostly from the Goldfields and the Murchison.

There are 110 000

tonnes of green and 27 000 tonnes of dead sandalwood available for harvesting in WA at present.

Under the new management plan, green sandalwood will continue to be harvested from Crown land at a rate of 1 800 tonnes per year with the harvesting of dead wood decreasing over the next 20 years.

"From the year 2020 or thereabouts, plantations will become increasingly important and the need to harvest native sandalwood will be diminished," Mr Pearce said.

"In the longer term, the 50-year projections allow for the harvesting of 13.7 per cent of existing green sandalwood trees in WA - that's without taking regrowth or regeneration

into account.

"The distribution or conservation status of native sandalwood will not be adversely affected by such harvesting.

Returns from the industry, benefits to research, arid land conservation and sandalwood management will far outweigh any possible impacts.

"Sandalwood conservation is a high priority and the State government has committed resources through the Sandalwood Conservation and Regeneration Project (SCARP).

"The government has already purchased pastoral stations carrying stands of sandalwood for conservation under this project," he said.



CALM's Gillian Morris and Gary Hunton load Christmas trees. Photo by David Gough

Christmas trees for YMCA

ONCE again Wanneroo District staff are doing their best to make sure Perth families are not without a Christmas tree to decorate and admire.

From December 4, they have been cutting some

1 500 nursery-grown *Pinus pinaster* trees daily. About 12 000 were distributed - 8 000 of which went to the YMCA at Melville, with the rest going to several charitable and community organisations. The YMCA

by
Verna Costello

distributes the trees to Perth metropolitan Target stores and selected service stations where they are sold to the public right up until

Wanneroo had been patiently working on developing a more conical-shaped tree to rival that of the northern hemisphere Christmas tree.

"They should be available by Christmas 1997," he said.

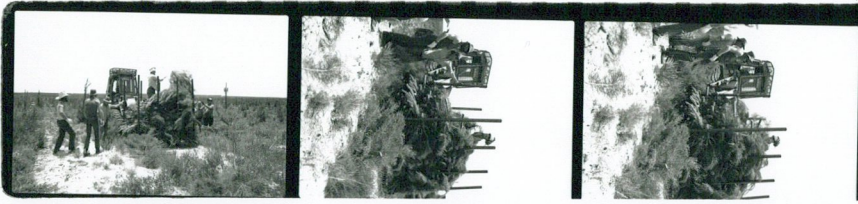


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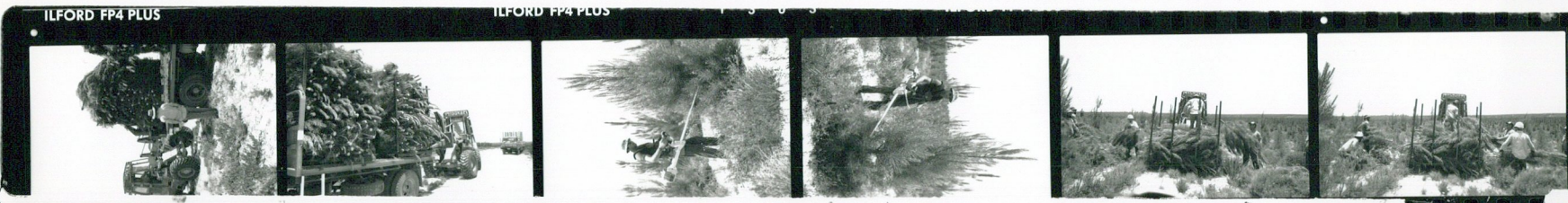
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SUBJECT

TECHNICAL DATA



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