

One million acres of softwoods

The planting of one million acres of conifers or softwoods will be achieved in 1970. This represents one-third of the national target figure to be planted by the year 2000.

The target of three million acres of softwoods is based on a sustained national planting rate of 75,000 acres a year.

It is anticipated that each year the States will plant 63,000 acres, the Federal Territories 2,000 and private enterprise 10,000.

As mentioned in the April, 1970 edition of *Forest Focus*, Australia's millionth acres of plantations (mixed softwoods and hardwoods) was achieved in the 1969 planting season.

In Western Australia this year, the Forests Department has programmed a planting of 6,257 acres of pines (*Pinus pinaster* and *P. radiata*) in nine forest divisions, not including at least 813 acres of five or more different species to be planted in trial plots in each of the 12 forest divisions from Wanneroo to Shannon.

An interesting point is that the largest single trial plot is one of 250 acres of pinaster on areas which have been mined for bauxite in the Kelmescott Division.

By far the largest planting (2,508 acres of pinaster) will be north of Yanchep and will be visible from the Lancelin road, while the second largest (1,073 acres of radiata and 60 acres of pinaster) will be in the Nannup/Kirup divisions. These figures do not include trial plots.

In the Dwellingup division 315 acres of radiata will be planted in the Murray Valley, plus 160 acres of pinaster trial plots in other locations. The Murray Valley plantation will reach a final area of about 15,000 acres. Eventually the valley will be flooded by another water supply reservoir, and pines are being planted to obtain the most production from this area in the short time available.

BACK COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

Pine seedlings in the Hamel forest nursery—some of the nine million pines produced this year in Forest Department nurseries.



Contouring plantation roads for soil conservation, Murray Valley.



Tandem planting machine in operation on coastal sands north of Yanchep. Inset shows seedling emerging from the tamping wheels.

This degraded farmland not far from Nannup is now supporting a vigorous stand of young pine trees. The steep, rocky and bracken covered slopes in the background were purchased by the Forests Department for plantation establishment. Easier slopes in the foreground were retained by the farmer.

