

AN UNEXPLAINED DISORDER IN WANDOO.

by F. D. Podger.

Patches of dying Wandoo have been noticed recently in the Easternmost parts of the Gleneagle Division.

The disorder has been noted both in virgin and cut-over forest as well as close to settlement or well within the forest belt. The occurrences are usually small, but one of 10 acres was found near the Dale River. Separate occurrences have been noted as far apart as the 60 mile on the Albany Road, and the area mentioned above near the Dale-Brookton Road.

At first sight these patches look much like dying Jarrah areas. They differ markedly, however, in that the understorey does not always die and that dense vigorous Wandoo regeneration up to 15' in height occurs on most areas. The typical poor condition of surrounding crowns common to dying Jarrah is not seen. Generally the trees within a year die from an apparently healthy condition.

There is no macroscopic evidence of fungal attack, nor can the deaths be attributed to fire.

These areas are spreading and more trees die each year. The leaves die and all the bark is shed in the one year with individual deaths occurring at least from July to December and perhaps throughout the year. Most of the patches have been found to occur on the middle and lower slope, but rarely on the flats.

Any one or combination of a number of factors may be responsible, but a suggestion that they are salt toxicity deaths is difficult to credit since at least two important occurrences are within well stocked forest areas.

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CONTENTS:

PAGE

Editorial		1.
Jarrah Seedling Plots - Willowdale.	A. C. van Noort	2.
An Unexplained Disorder in Wandoo.	F. D. Podger	9.
Nursery Soil Fertility Studies.	A. B. Hatch	9.
Blackwood as a Karri Forest Understorey.	J. Meachem	13.
Germination Stimulation in Pinus pinaster.	E. R. Hopkins.	13.
Bunning Bros. Occidentale Plantation.	F. D. Podger	19.
Cutting out the Deadwood.	P. J. McNamara.	19.
Early Thinning and Pruning in Pinus pinaster.	E. R. Hopkins.	21.
Eucalyptus crebra Planting on Dieback.	F. D. Podger.	24.
Gang Morale.	D. R. LeJeune.	24.
Pole Thinning in Jarrah Coppice Regrowth.	P. N. Hewett.	25.
High Yield from Prime Karri Forest.	A. C. Harris.	26.
Visit of the Conservator and Party to the Kimberleys.	G. E. Brockway.	26.
Display of Local Timbers at Head Office.	D.W.R. Stewart.	33.
Boil it Down.	W. R. Wallace.	34.