

BLACKWOOD AS A KARRI FOREST UNDERSTOREY.
by J. C. Meachem.

Foresters in the Karri forest have long had in mind the introduction of an understorey or complementary species with special characteristics not found in our native hardwoods or recognised exotic softwoods. Trials of Redwood (*S. sempervirens*), Cypress Pine (*C. cupressiformis*), and Douglas Fir are interesting, but not yet promising of practical application. Recent inspections of Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), give cause for optimism. Spot sowings at Big Brook in 1928 under open virgin Karri and presumably on a recent burn, produced a number of trees of indifferent form which now measure up to 60 inches g.b.h. and 70 feet in height. At approximately 10 years of age the originals commenced regenerating and today each tree has colonised an area of up to half an acre in extent. The progeny are of good form, straight boles to 40 feet being not uncommon. Rate of growth varies considerably but some stems are developing rapidly. At least some of the young trees are root suckers which have gained an initial boost from the parent root system.

A colony of several acres has developed on Quinninup Brook from a few old trees on an adjacent farm. Here the progeny appear to be mainly seedlings and may be found in mixed Marri-Karri formation up to 8 chains from the stream.

Blackwood has for many years been highly valued as a veneer and cabinet wood. It seasons and bends well but in recent years it has not been readily available. As a timber tree in Tasmania it is found chiefly in prime Ash forests (40-60" rainfall) and the swamp forests of the North West. Competition is everywhere essential to achieve good form.

Trial areas are to be established on recently logged Karri forest in an endeavour to replace, in some measure at least, the fire weed Acacias. Experiments are in hand to test seedling and vegetative reproduction (root cuttings) in various forms. Seed is being secured from elite trees selected in the field by I. B. Thulen, geneticist, for work being carried out by the Forest Research Institute of New Zealand.

P. Hadley

C. Vellies

Material contained in this Newsletter cannot be published elsewhere without permission of the Conservator of Forests, Western Australia.

NUMBER 1.

FEBRUARY, 1959.

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.