

PLANTATION ESTABLISHMENT

15.

Effect of Early and Late Ploughing under Grassy
Conditions at Pinjar.

by H.G. Clover

Grass competition is an important factor in pine survival in parts of the Wanneroo Division.

During 1958 an experiment was carried out to test the effect of time of ploughing over an area where a considerable growth of grass was present.

Lengthways across an area of 75 acres two strips, totalling $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres, were ploughed during early April. The remainder was not ploughed until the middle of June.

Planting was carried out between 11th and 21st July.

The effect of the two treatments on survival of the pine is shown in the following table:

Time of Ploughing	Percentage of Deaths	
	December Count	April Count
April	$7\frac{1}{2}\%$	75%
June	$2\frac{1}{3}\%$	27%

It is evident that grass has a detrimental effect on survival of pines. Late ploughing, though it does not remove the menace reduces it considerably.

It is not practicable to leave all ploughing on grassy areas to the period just prior to planting. The practice now in the Wanneroo Division is to drag a heavy scraper over ploughed areas just prior to planting. This operation reduces the weed problem and also has a levelling effect which makes for more efficient and comfortable machine planting.