

FROST DAMAGE.

By S.J.Quain

The severe early frosts this year damaged the crowns of the various tree species in the Gleneagle Division. It also had a very variable effect on understorey species, but these remarks refer to the tree species. Because this frost damage is scattered throughout the forest region both in time and area I do not consider that as foresters we appreciate the effect frosts have on our forests.

All the low lying areas in the Division were badly hit by frost this May and a complete kill of sapling crowns was common. In some areas in the eastern part of the Division the frost damage extended up to the mature tree crowns.

Although all species suffered it was seen that jarrah and marri suffered worst and blackbutt and wandoo a good deal less. Also as could be expected the growing shoots suffered more than the older leaves.

This raises the question as to whether the malformed sapling stands along some sections of the main rivers and creeks are the result of continuous past fires or a combined result of frost and fire. Also has frost been one of the climatic factors affecting the distribution of the tree species in the Jarrah Forest Region.

The opinion that the clear falling operations of the jarrah resulted in malformed saplings rather than a lighter cutting may also be influenced by the effects of frost.
