

VARIATION IN THE WEIGHT OF SAWN GREEN RADIATA PINE.

by P.H. Barrett

From time to time enquiries are received, mainly from timber merchants, as to the weight of sawn green pine. Many factors affect the weight at any one time. These include the time of the year sawing takes place, the sawn dimensions of the material, the method and length of time of stacking prior to despatch, and probably the vigour of the stand from which the sawlogs are obtained.

The average weight of sawn green Pinus radiata is given as 56 lb. per cubic foot\* and most foresters are aware that there can be a considerable range on either side of this figure. To examine this variation and to see whether climate had any effect, figures for the average monthly green weight of sawn P.radiata from Grimwade and Pimelia have been extracted. The information was collated from delivery notes showing volumes despatched and the appropriate W.A.G.R. weights. During 1963-64, Grimwade railed over 605 tons of pine and Pimelia 320 tons - small parcels are not included in these figures. Railway truck lots were spread over 12 months for Grimwade and 11 months for Pimelia.

The accompanying graph clearly demonstrates the marked differences throughout the year of the weight of sawn pine from the two centres. At Grimwade the average weight was quite high in the spring months but dropped rapidly as summer conditions were experienced. Pimelia on the other hand showed only a small variation in the average weight during the year.

Possible explanations may be, briefly: -

- a) Climate: Climatic conditions at Pimelia are much milder than those at Grimwade particularly during the summer months. Rainfall is higher and more prolonged, temperatures much lower and relative humidity higher.
- b) Tree Vigour: In general, stands of P.radiata at Grimwade are far more vigorous than those at Pimelia. It is reasonable to assume that Grimwade sawn pine is less dense and therefore more susceptible to wetting and drying.

\* Cubic contents of logs and some associated table.

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1963-64

