EVOLUTION OF PINUS RADIATA SOIL SURVEY IN W.A. - 11.

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An earlier article in "Forest Notes", vol. 2, no. 3, proposed a new system of classification for P. radiata land. This system has now been tried out in 8 surveys in 5 divisions since then and found to be a more realistic guide to land values.

Briefly, the system uses six grades (A - F) to identify site productivity ranging from excellent to useless. The old "genetic" associations have been retained - i.e. "basic", "acidic", "metamorphic" and "lateritic" - denoted by haching on soil plans as before. These associations often cut right across the range of suitability, but are retained as a useful guide to physical conditions, e.g. for roading. They are also useful for those not accustomed to the new approach.

The table below shows the new system.

Suitability for P. radiata.

Qualitative Productivity gradings	Symbol used for each grade	Approximate quantitative equivalent (Site Quality)	
Excellent	A	1 - 11	(Normally basic and
Good	B	111	(metamorphic soils.
Satisfactory	C	1V - V +	Best acidic soils rarely above this grade
Doubtful	D	Low V & poorer	
Submarginal	E	Probable failure	
Unsuitable	F	Certain failure	

It seems that 5 grades would have been enough because there is little call for the separation of a probable failure "from certain failure", and considerable extra work is required in the field to make this separation. In practice, the Grade "F" is rarely applied.

The system of using large dots for doubtful areas and "crossed dots" for unsuitable areas has been dropped, as the grade symbols cover this adequately, and the "plantable limit" boundary is a further guide.

Each plan produced has an adequate legend to guide the reader.

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