BANKSIA CAN BE KILLED CHEAPLY WITH 2,4,5-T.

by C.W. Moore

The vast numbers of Banksia grandis which exist in various localities throughout the jarrah forest are taking up growing space at the expense of jarrah. It is also felt these dense stands could be aiding the spread of dieback as Banksia is a very susceptible host. Banksia has little or no commercial value so it is desirable to eradicate it.

Attempts at killing the species by the usual methods of applying herbicides, although successful, have been far too costly as Banksia occurs in such large numbers.

With all these thoughts in mind, the experiment described here was laid down in March 1965.

2,4,5-T ester in dieselene was used and was applied by the following two methods - Overbark spot spray and Notching.

There were eight treatments in all, each receiving 5 cc of the required solution. Plots were two chain by one chain with approximately 150 stems per plot.

Six months after treatment all small stems were showing some effect - yellowing of the crown; however, large stems were only showing effect in treatment 7 & 8.

The final assessment was made three years after the treatments were laid down and the results were as follow: -

Plot No.	Treatment	Percentage Deaths.
1	2 notches 5cc of 1% 2,4,5-T per notch	48
2	1 " " " 2% " " "	28
3	2 " " " 2% " " "	89
4	1 " " " 4% " " "	83
5	1 spot overbark 5cc of 4% " " spot	93
6	2 spot overbark 5cc of 2% " " "	97
7	1 spot overbark 5cc of 8% " " "	94
8	2 spot overbark 5cc of 4% " " "	94

From the above, the results show that overbark spot spray would be the better method of applying the herbicide and that treatment 6 would be the most economically efficient treatment among those tested.

The operator, in applying the herbicide, would have to be careful that he did not let the herbicide gush out and that the bark absorbed all the solution. However, Banksia readily absorbs the solution and very little more time and care has to be taken when compared to notching in jarrah. In notching Banksia the operator has a greater time-consuming problem of run-off; Banksia does not form a chisel-shaped

reservoir as jarrah does because of the brittle nature of its bark.

As a safety measure an overbark spray would also be more satisfactory as notching small Banksia can be quite dangerous. The notching tool can bounce off quite easily and hit the operator.

No colouring of the spray mixture is needed as the dieselene stains the bark readily and shows out very well.

A field trial covering 43 acres of dense Banksia was laid down by forest cadets at Dwellingup in March this year.

A single overbark spot spray of 5cc 2% 2,4,5-T ester in dieselene was used. Large Banksia were given an extra spot. The cost for materials and labour was $4.10 per acre. Total cost including materials, labour, transport, overhead and administration was $5.96 per acre. The total amount of solution used for the dense stand was 66 gals. or 1.53 gals. per acre.

It is likely that an experienced labour force would reduce this cost still further.

****

This could only happen in a Forest Office when and where the typist was in a state of severe mental fatigue after completing typing of Plantation Working Plan !!!

Quote

> 'On 9-6-67 I forwarded Electric Radiata no. F.D. 2032 to Como for repair or replacement'.

unquote

No names - no pack-drill.

****