

## THE KARRI FLORAL CYCLE

by P. Christensen

Last summer saw the dispersal of the remaining seed from the big seed crop of 1967 - 69. With the exception of Margaret River area it was considered that no districts had sufficient seed for successful regeneration burns this autumn.

Sampling this autumn revealed only one crop of any significance. This is the three year old crop currently flowering (May 1970). As was predicted in circulars sent to D.F.O.'s in the Karri regions last year and the year before, this crop is a mediocre one only. The flowering appears general although heavier in some parts than others. Thus if all goes well it should result in a mediocre seed crop in 1971/72. Regeneration burning may be possible in some areas in autumn 1971 and spring 1971/72 but it is unlikely that enough seed will be left in autumn 1972. It is felt that although the seed crop should be general throughout the Karri areas it may be too light in many places for successful regeneration burning.

A smallish crop which might have boosted the above crop was present last year as pin buds. As feared however, this appears to have aborted.

SPECIAL CASES

Flowering in the Walpole area appears to be very patchy and it is likely that certain areas will have no seed from this crop. This area remains the most variable part of the Karri forest and good predictions are difficult. In some parts the crop appears the same as for the main Karri areas but in others there is a smallish bud crop which could produce seed in 1974. The Margaret River area, although it appears similar to the main Karri areas, is also variable. In these two areas it is difficult to predict with any degree of certainty.

An area on Brockway Road in Poole Block, Quininup is of interest. A heavy bud crop was initiated this summer. Since there are no such crops in the surrounding areas it's thought that it might have been stimulated by the very hot fire which swept this area in 1968. It would be interesting to know if anyone has noticed this phenomenon in the past.

GENERAL

It is proposed to publish these forecasts each autumn in Forest Notes. Previously they were circulated to D.F.O.'s offices but appear not to have been generally available. The forecasts are based on data obtained from sampling done over most of the Karri forest area (see previous article on seed sampling in Forest Notes Vol. 7 No.2 of 1969). The present system of forecasts has only been

in use since autumn 1968 and there are many uncontrollable factors which may upset or alter such forecasts. However to date results have been encouraging and those that have taken advantage of them and left more trees per acre than otherwise normal in clear felled areas could be four years ahead with their regeneration burning programme. As mentioned above the next crop 1971/72 is likely to be a mediocre one only.

The capsules from this crop will still be ripening over next summer so it seems unlikely that the trees will have the necessary resources available to produce a heavy crop of buds before summer 1972. Since pin buds take four years to reach maturity as ripe capsules a good seed year cannot be expected before 1975/76. Even if the trees do bud heavily next summer the seed would not be available till 1974/75. However every second Karri seed crop is generally a good one so it is probable that this crop, whether in 1974/75 or 1975/76, will be a good one.