

THE KARRI FLORAL CYCLE

by

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The annual karri seed and floral sampling has now been completed. It was somewhat late this year as we struck a problem not previously encountered. All the mills, nearly without exception, were cutting on seed tree areas. As the floral components are usually lost after fire these trees are of little use for estimates. Consequently all sample branches had to be shot down using the rifle, a laborious method when a lot of samples are involved.

Capsules from this year's seed crop are still present but it is not expected that there will be much seed present this season. There may be enough in some areas.

The fairly reasonable bud crop which was initiated in 1971 has entirely disappeared. It is thought that the long dry summer may have had something to do with this. However, a new good bud crop has developed in 1972. This could still lead to the flowering forecast for 1973, resulting in a seed crop in 1974/75. But in view of the failure of last year's bud crop it is now considered more likely that another bud crop may develop this year leading to a good flowering in 1974 and a good seed crop in 1975/76.