

THE KARRI FLORAL CYCLE

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The Annual karri seed and floral sampling was completed in June. As three mills were cutting in either fire-damaged or jarrah areas that could not be sampled, sampling was done only in the areas being cut by the remaining six mills.

The crop initiated in 1972, which by now should have flowered, is in fact retarded. Only about a third has already flowered or formed capsules and of this third, a few could be mature capsules by spring 1974 or autumn 1975. The remainder are expected to flower over winter and spring 1974 and give a seed crop in spring 1975 to autumn 1976.

The crop initiated in 1973 has advanced in some areas and could catch up to the 1972 crop - i.e. begin flowering by spring 1974 and continue over the following summer and autumn. Some of these may be mature by spring 1975, the rest by spring 1976.

There are thus two overlapping crops, one a 3 year and the other a 4 year cycle, but the proportion of each is not consistent throughout the main karri area. Overall there is a likelihood of a fairly good seed crop in spring 1975/76, followed by a mediocre crop in spring 1976/77. In some localities, however, the position may be reversed, that is the best of the two crops may occur in spring 1976/77.

The Walpole area is roughly in phase with the main karri region and the seed crop is expected to be about the same. There is more likelihood of the best seed crop occurring in spring 1975/76, as the buds are generally more advanced.

At Boranup the crop is a year in advance of the main karri area and a good crop of capsules, which should be mature by spring 1974, is evident. Burning will be possible in either spring 1974 or autumn 1975, with a good chance of enough seed remaining for a successful spring 1975 regeneration burn.