

By agreement with the Weeds & Seeds Branch of the Department of Agriculture, the boundaries of the reserves are to be sprayed with a hormone to control the growth of a declared noxious weed, Cape Tulip, heavy infestations of which occur in the area. We are assured that the spray will not affect the tortoises.

TAKING OF WHALES FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES

It will be remembered that, in the May 1962 issue, we published advice received from the Fisheries Division, Department of Primary Industry, Canberra, that quotas of 100 and 450 humpback whales had been allotted to the Cheynes Beach Whaling Co. and Nor'-West Whaling Co. respectively. Since then, separate approvals for the taking of additional whales for research purposes have been signified. Advice has been received that the Minister for Primary Industry has approved the capture of three blue whales at Carnarvon and three at Albany, and a later approval was given for the taking of seven blue whales at Carnarvon. On June 6, telegraphic advice was received that the Minister had approved the capture, in Western Australian waters, of eight undersize sperm whales each month from June to November inclusive. This meant that the Nor'-West Whaling Company and the Cheynes Beach Whaling Company were each allowed to take up to four in each of the six months, or a grand total of 48. It was further stated that permission would be given for one company to transfer to the other any portion or the whole of its monthly quota provided that the number of whales so transferred was taken in the same month. The total number of undersize sperm whales to be taken by both stations in 1962, therefore, was limited to 48. The products of the whales will become the property of the company capturing them.