

621.3

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SERIAL No. F.D. 5487

349/1

**JARRAH DIEBACK**

... a disease caused by the microscopic soil fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi* ... is seriously threatening W.A.'s jarrah forests. The fungus attacks the fine feeder roots, depriving the plant or tree of access to soil moisture and nutrients. As a result, most understorey species and finally the jarrah trees themselves die of starvation or drought.

The fungus does not affect stems or branches of jarrah trees and has no effect on the strength or durability of the timber.

Not all forest trees are susceptible. Karri, marri, wandoo and blackbutt, the other important timber species, are tolerant to the disease.

*Phytophthora cinnamomi* causes serious disease in many plant crops throughout the world, including peaches, plums, avacadoes and pineapples.

While being a primitive form of fungus, its life cycle and self protection mechanisms are highly developed.

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