

## *THE FORESTERS COMPANION*

N.D.G. James. Third Edition. Basil Blackwell, Oxford. 1982. 381 pp.  
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The works of N.D.G. James need no introduction to the vast majority of those interested in forestry and this third edition of the Foresters Companion is an essential text book for all practical foresters and students of forestry. The new edition has been completely revised and brings up-to-date many aspects of forestry which have been developed since the publication of Mr. James' previous edition in 1965. To quote

one example, there is mention of Major General Moore's revolutionary' concept of Oceanic Forestry. Metrication, of course, has been introduced in recent years and this has been dealt with very comprehensively, dare I say, too comprehensively. Is there for instance a significant difference between a planting espacement of 2 metres and 2.1 metres (7 feet) ?

This volume is a must for all those involved in day-to-day forestry and provides in a compact and very readable form a comprehensive guide to all aspects of forestry from seed to sawdust — or perhaps more topically, wood ash. It is difficult to be critical of such a volume but perhaps in his enthusiasm and eagerness to cover all aspects of forestry, Mr. James has allowed his pocket volume to become slightly larger than pocket size. My old and battered second edition measures seven inches by four and three-quarters by three-quarters even with a hard cover, whereas the new paperback third edition measures seven and a half inches by five by seven-eighths. The new edition contains 30 extra pages. It is not easy to say what, if anything, could have been omitted to reduce the size but perhaps for instance such a specialised and obsolescent subject as coppice and underwood could have been left out.

For the reader in the Republic there are naturally some aspects covered which do not apply such as the chapters on the law, grants, felling licences, taxation etc., but this is unavoidable and is only a comparatively small proportion of the whole. The volume lends itself particularly to the landowner in Ireland involved to a greater or lesser extent in forest management. Mr. James' previous edition has been my "companion" for the past fifteen years and I have no hesitation in recommending the latest edition to all interested in *practical* forestry.