

THE USE OF HERBICIDES IN THE FOREST—1983

J. S. P. Sale, P. M. Tabbush and P. B. Lane, Forestry Commission Booklet 51. U.K.
Price £1.50.

In 1979 the Forestry Commission produced its booklet, "The Use of Chemicals in the Forestry Commission". This contained a section on forest herbicides. This present booklet is designed as a successor to that forest herbicide section. Because of

the rapid evolution of herbicides, equipment and methods of application, books on this subject usually become out-dated within a year or two of publication. However, the text of this booklet is held in computer files and it is intended to revise and re-issue it as frequently as necessary.

The layout of the booklet is given in the List of Contents. Sections 3 to 8 cover the main weed types, including grasses, bracken, heather, gorse, broom and broadleaved weeds. In addition, each section contains a broad description of the main problems encountered, followed by a list of recommended herbicides. Herbicide entries are set out in a standard format which gives properties, toxicity, crop tolerance, application rates, timing and limitations. Sections 9 to 11 deal with safety precautions, safe working methods and protective clothing. The introduction issues a warning that all herbicides are poisonous to some degree or other. As a result there is considerable emphasis throughout the booklet on safety precautions, both in the application of the chemicals and in the disposal of surplus.

Although this publication is produced primarily for Forestry Commission staff much of the material should be relevant under Irish conditions and the booklet will be an important reference source for all foresters who have responsibility for the use of chemicals as an aid to forest management.

J.G.