

Forestry News

AN IRISH MARKET? — USE OF ASH

N. Hanlon Ireland Ltd., Co. Longford, make about 700 ambulances a year. Of these, 40-50 are sold annually in Ireland with the greater bulk going to the U.K. and the occasional order finding its way to the Middle East.

This is the only company in the Irish Republic that specialises in ambulance building. The company uses in the region of 480 tons of rough-sawn ash a year. The entire frame of each ambulance is made of this wood which in turn is covered by an overlay of fibreglass. The properties of flexibility and resilience of ash is ideal for this purpose.

In the manufacture of each vehicle 106 kilogrammes of finished ash is required. However, a high wastage results to produce the lengths and shapes required. This wastage is burned to heat the factory during the winter.

Most of the ash needed is imported from the U.K. Irish suppliers have difficulty supplying, on a regular basis, straight ash of lengths of about four metres.

(Information kindly supplied by N. Hanlon, Ireland Ltd.).

ALTERNATIVES TO SIMAZINE IN NURSERY MANAGEMENT

The development of simazine-resistant weed populations is a potentially serious problem in nursery management. Experiments suggest that napropamide, a napropamide-simazine mixture and oxadiazon can be used as alternatives to simazine for weed control in transplant lines at time of lining-out.

(Information kindly supplied by Forestry Commission, Forest Research Station, Alice Holt Lodge, Surrey. — Based on Research Info. Note by T. S. P. Sale and W. L. Mason).

FOREST PRODUCTS

High in the mountain woods in Italy the Camaldolese hermits in 1157 made a liqueur from the secretions of scale insect which fed on pine trees. The liqueur was called *Lacrima d'Abeto* — tears of the pine.

ELECTION TO IUFRO

At the 18th World Congress of the International Union of Forestry Research Organisation (IUFRO) in Yugoslavia in September 1986, Fergal Mulloy of the Forest and Wildlife Service was elected Regional Executive Board member for Northern

Europe. The executive board, among others, is composed of nine Regional members.

Mr. Mulloy is to be congratulated. Election to the executive board is a recognition of the important role Ireland has played in forest research. In particular Ireland has contributed important work in the fields of provenance trials and thinning trials.

IUFRO was founded in 1890/92 to rationalise forest research techniques, to standardise systems of measurement and to promote international co-operation in forest research. To date there are over 600 member institutions incorporating 15,000 scientists from almost 100 countries. Ireland has four organisation members; UCD: FWS: IIRS and Forestry Division, Northern Ireland.

SHADES OF THINGS TO COME?

Plants vary in their sensitivity to radiation. Radioactive isotopes settling on leaves are absorbed and many move throughout the whole plant.

The degree of sensitivity, research has shown, is linked with the chromosome volume of a species. In general the smaller the volume the less sensitive plants are.

Flowering plant species are less resistant to the effects of radiation than non-flowering species. Conifer forests are more susceptible than broadleaved forests.

(Ref. New Scientist).

HAVE WIND WILL TRAVEL!

In 1924 in Spitsbergen, scattered over a wide area of snow covered land were found innumerable spruce aphids which were still alive. Obviously they were not feeding on snow. The nearest land mass from which they could have come was the Kaola Peninsula 800 miles away. At the time of the observation wind was blowing from that direction and it was estimated that the insects would have been in the air at least 24 hours to travel a journey of that distance.

FORESTRY CONFERENCE

The Institute of Foresters of Australia is hosting the 1987 International Forestry Conference in Perth, Western Australia between 28th September and 2nd October 1987.

(The editor encourages readers to submit items of interest for inclusion in "Forestry News")



JAYSBRIDGE on the River AVONMORE at AVONDALE.
Painted by W. Verelst.

Plate 3: Jaysbridge on the River Avonmore at Avondale. Published by J. Fisher August 1793.