

Book Review

GROWING TIMBER FOR THE MARKET

Proceedings of a discussion meeting organised by the Institute of Chartered Foresters, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. 29-31 March 1985. Edinburgh Institute of Chartered Foresters 1985. pp118. Index, Contributors, Participants. ISBN 0 907284 06 X.

The plantations established in Britain since the mid-1950s are now becoming productive and the volume of softwood on the market will increase very rapidly up to and beyond the end of the century. There is also a renewed interest in the broadleaved species of lowland forests. Since supply to the bottom end of the softwood market is now nearing saturation there is an urgent need to plan for greater penetration of the construction market and therefore, home produced softwoods will be in greater competition with imported material. To be competitive, attention will need to be given to the characteristics, quality and presentation of the home product.

The discussion meeting reviewed the technical and economic factors affecting Britain's ability to produce timber for the home market. Thirteen papers read at the meeting were divided into four sessions. The first session on markets deals with the coniferous and broadleaved markets, the coniferous fibre markets and mobilising the timber resource. Session two entitled "Timber" discussed the characteristics of coniferous wood, the features essential to good quality broadleaved timber and how it may be produced, the contribution of the geneticist and the influence of thinning and spacing on the marketing of timber. The third session deals with the economics of producing timber for the market. The final session examines reports from discussion groups on "The Influence of Juvenile Wood Characteristics on the Value of the Log," "New Silvicultural Horizons for Broadleaved Forestry" and "Log Classification and its Influence on the Paying Capacity of the Resource".

The proceedings are then summarised in the final chapter.

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