

Guidelines for the Use of Herbicides in Forestry

Edited by Declan Ward. 1996. Forest Protection, Research and Development Division, Coillte, Bray, Co. Wicklow. 68 pp. ISBN 0 9518612 2 0. Available from the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

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In 1983, the UK Forestry Commission produced Field Book 8, *The Use of Herbicides in the Forest*, a number of editions of which have subsequently been published. Although applicable to Irish conditions, it is very repetitive and any consultation necessitates considerable ‘weeding’ to obtain the required information. Time is money in forestry, and managers require quick answers to questions. In the case of vegetation management, they want the answers to three simple questions regarding which herbicide is the most suitable, when is the best time to apply it, and what method of application to use.

This publication answers these questions in a stylish and refreshing way. To put it sim-

ply, this is a 'no frills' vegetation control manual useful to anyone involved in forest management.

The booklet is divided into seven sections covering all aspects of chemical vegetation control in forestry, from safety through to surfactants/adjuvant oils. It is printed on a high gloss paper, presumably to protect it from the ravages of the weather 'in the field'. Sections 1 and 2 cover the introduction and safety aspects of dealing with chemicals. In Section 3, commonly used herbicides are attributed approximately one page each, with trade names, crop tolerance, application rates and appropriate weather conditions for application clearly outlined. Section 4 contains the vegetation site type prescriptions, with each vegetation type addressed separately. These prescriptions are dealt with alphabetically, from bracken to scrub/woody weeds. Decision support is offered with the use of colour photographs, tables and flow charts. The final three sections deal with applicators, calibration and the addition of surfactants/adjuvant oils to enhance herbicide effectiveness. Although all sections are brief, each subject is dealt with thoroughly. However, with herbicides and their application methods constantly changing and being replaced with more efficient ones, this booklet will have to be revised and updated frequently.

Overall, the editor, who continued the work started by the late John O'Driscoll and his Herbicide Committee, has compiled a glossy, concise and user-friendly book suitable for anyone involved in forest management, be they forester or farmer.