

REVIEW

HANDBOOK OF WEED AND INSECT CONTROL CHEMICALS FOR FOREST RESOURCE MANAGERS, by Michael Newton and Fred B. Knight, 213 pp., published by Timber Press, Beaverton, Oregon.

As implied by the term "handbook", this book is designed as a practical guide to forest resource managers. Much of the practical advice (pesticide formulations, legal requirements, recommendations for specific pesticides, etc.) is applicable to the U.S.A. and is of little use to foresters in New Zealand.

However, the book is much more than a list of prescriptions for spraying operations.

A short introductory chapter deals with the need for the correct use of pesticides, particularly in the light of increasing public involvement in land-use decisions; and it also emphasises the complexity of non-chemical pest control methods.

The next two large chapters deal with forest vegetation and forest insect management. The need for careful evaluation of problems, defining of objectives and the use of pesticides in a planned regime is stressed. Useful information on the general biological properties and uses of some of the main herbicides is given in Chapter 2, though again implications for use are based on American requirements.

There is a brief chapter on application technology, which tends to over-simplify some of the problems of, for example, aerial application.

The final chapter deals with risks and care in the handling of pesticides, and includes some very sensible comments on toxicity and hazards associated with pesticide use.

The manual is not simply a recipe book. It is a useful textbook for teaching the principles of pest control mainly, but not solely, with pesticides; it presents a balanced view of the use of pesticides and is written with an economy and clarity of style which make it easy to use.

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