

to staining and incipient rot on newly-sawn radiata pine timber.

The Forest Research Institute, Rotorua, and the DSIR Plant Protection Division, Auckland, were involved at an early stage of development of the formulation, providing information on the nature of the fungal challenge. After looking at several different formulations, Wellcome has Lignen AS.



Lignen AS – a new antisapstain emulsion for lumber, developed in New Zealand by Wellcome Environmental Health.

"The team has developed a timber treatment product which relies on the application of its active chemicals at very low levels, so it can be described as environmentally kindly as well as effective," said Arthur O'Leary, head of Wellcome's quality control laboratory. "Both halves of the product contain an active ingredient, with solvents that in combination create a true emulsion. So it is easy to apply, has good penetration, and does not lose strength through the working day."

The FRI assisted with evaluation in New Zealand of the product, and Wellcome also organised trials in Queensland and South East Asia.

The New Zealand formulation will be offered to the Australasian market, and through Wellcome's international network, world-wide.

LETTERS

Misleading information?

Sir,

As the ink dries on the Crown Forestry Licences and management rights pass from public to private hands, I guess we should be glad that established New Zealand forest owners have been to the fore in winning tenders. At least we can be confident that these forests will be managed by socially responsible and thoroughly trustworthy agencies. Or can we?

Since the Hon. Roger Douglas announced the sale in his 1988 Budget, the New Zealand industry has courted the politicians and the public to gain their favour. Some of their public statements, in retrospect, are worthy of re-examination.

In December 1988 the New Zealand Forest Industries Council released the following statement:

"The New Zealand Forest Industries Council has expressed concern over recent misleading publicity regarding the future employment prospects for staff of the Forestry Corporation, describing it as unsoundly based and at odds with undertakings given by the industry to the Government.

"Opposition MP for Tarawera Ian McLean has reportedly stated that staff at the Forestry Corporation's Kaingaroa office and Prolog mill should be fearful over their future employment prospects as a result of the Government's decision to sell the State forests. This is simply not true as New Zealand industry has collectively undertaken to take over all Corporation employees involved at district level, including the contracting work force, in any change in ownership as a result of privatisation of State forests. It is clear that following the corporatisation process the New Zealand Forestry Corporation carried out a rigorous review of staffing levels in State forests and the industry is confident that as a result of the steps taken, all staff remaining will be needed and will continue to make important contributions to future growth within the industry.

"It was expected that this

important reassurance to staff would have been made public following the Forestry Working Committee's report to Government, but it appears it has not been generally released and is not appreciated by those affected. The Council is concerned to ensure that those families whose livelihood depends on the forest industries are not caused unnecessary anxiety, and are reassured about their future."

Strong and responsible words indeed, and I wish I could have confidence in them. However, the New Zealand industry's 1988 Christmas message to Timberlands' staff and their actions in 1990 give every hint of being in serious conflict. Will public access for recreation be the next issue to suffer a similar fate at the hands of the New Zealand industry?

John Novis
Christchurch

Replanting and forest policy

Sir,

I see in your last issue that my old mate Dennys Guild has put pen to paper in support of Government's laissez-faire approach to conditions on Crown forestry licences.

Dennys has always been a free spirit, never afraid of questioning Government policy. Nor does it appear that he has any difficulty in supporting it! His opinion deserves the very closest attention. He is one of those elite band of foresters possessing skills honed in Tane Mahuta's garden with ideas refined over the pool table in the Kaikohe RSA and with a reputation for cracking the problem of successfully establishing radiata on Northland's impoverished gumland soils.

Dennys does appear, however, to have been seduced, which I'm sure wouldn't have happened if he had stayed in Taitokerau! The current fashion is for thinking that growing trees is exactly like tending a crop of carrots or spuds – grain and root crops are the examples Dennys uses. Captured, he seems to have been, by those adverts commissioned by a certain forestry enterprise – good, weren't they? – even though the Auditor-General expressed some reservations. But Dennys and every other forester