

BUSH BULLETIN

Wood — our renewable resource

We hear a lot about the increasing volumes of wood that will be produced from our forests over the next twenty-odd years. Which areas will this wood come from? We'll look at the predicted wood supply from figures produced by the Ministry of Forestry. Permission to use these figures from regional studies is acknowledged.

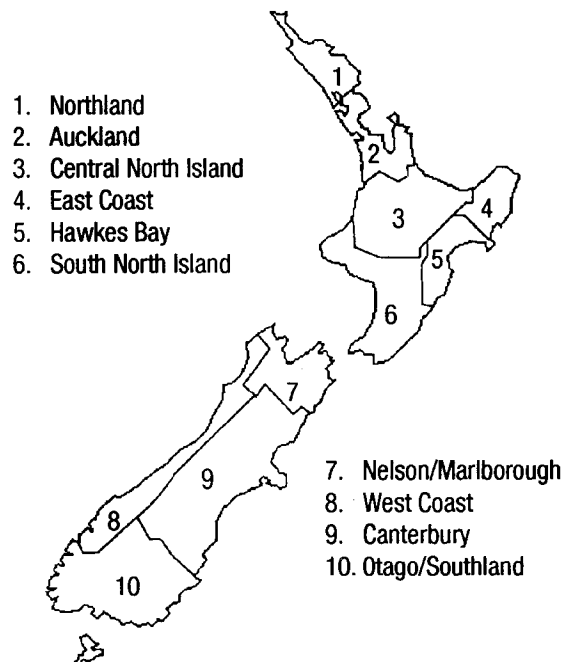
Over the last 20-odd years we have spent a lot of time, effort and money on looking after our radiata pine forests. Many of you have thinned areas to waste to allow the final crop plenty of room to grow, or pruned trees to produce knot-free wood.

For the year ended June 1993, forest product exports earned New Zealand \$2.3 billion and were about 13% of our exports. The total earnings will increase dramatically as the large plantings of the 1970s and 1980s come on stream. By about 2010, forestry is likely to be the nation's number one export earner.

This rise in the wood available for export will take place as the traditional world supply areas of Asia and North West America are reducing supply due to less wood being available and conservation pressures. With our radiata clearwood we are well positioned to substitute dwindling supplies of South Seas hardwoods and North American softwoods.

Our nearest wood markets are those countries that circle the Pacific Ocean (the Pacific Rim). They have the fastest growth for wood demand in the world. It is estimated that by the year 2001 there will be a 10% drop in the total wood produced in the area overall, and New Zealand is in a good position to take advantage of this with our expanding supplies of radiata pine.

The Ministry of Forestry has divided the country into ten wood supply regions — six in the North Island and four in the South.



To look at future wood supplies, we will be using one of a number of the Ministry's schemes. The one we have chosen allows for 50,000 hectares a year of new planting, a 30-year rotation and all cut overs being replanted.

Indications are that this area will be far exceeded as more people look at forestry as an investment and more interest in our forests are taken up by overseas companies. It looks as though wood production could rise even higher in the years following on from our graphs, based on 50,000 hectares of new planting.

On the reverse side we will look at future wood flows in your area using this Ministry of Forestry's scheme.

