

BOOK REVIEWS

HORMONAL CONTROL OF TREE GROWTH

Edited by S. V. Kossuth and S. D. Ross

Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, The Netherlands, 1987. 242 pages. ISBN 90-247-3621-8.

£30.95

This book is in the series on Forestry Sciences produced by Martinus Nijhoff Publishers and consists of invited papers on plant growth regulators presented to the Society of American Foresters Physiology Working Group Technical Session in Birmingham, Alabama, in October 1986. The authors were asked to synthesise the current status of knowledge on the topic of their chapter.

The 10 chapters cover a range of aspects of the role of plant growth regulators on growth of woody perennials. Although many of the contributions are well written, accurate, and comprehensive (e.g., Little & Savidge on cambial growth), and cover topics which have not been reviewed recently (e.g., Webber on pollen development and germination), other subject areas have been repeatedly reviewed. In the last category, Durzan in his review of cell and tissue culture, however, presents a very readable and concise account and Bonnet-Masimbert & Zaerr and Ross & Pharis on flowering and sex expression in conifers, respectively, cover areas where most of the research work at present is concentrated. There is increasing interest in rejuvenation and in propagation of the hardwoods of the genera *Castanea*, *Juglans*, and *Quercus*, and the chapters by Greenwood and by Schwarz are valuable updates. Similarly, the chapters by Leadem and by Lavender & Silim on seed germination and dormancy, respectively, review current knowledge and should be useful to those working in these areas. The chapter by Johnson is of particular interest as it reviews briefly the role of plant growth regulators in the response to stress.

In addition to the chapters noted above, I would have welcomed another chapter on the latest ideas regarding modes of action of the different growth regulators and an update on analytical methods; some of this information is mentioned briefly but a fuller, detailed – and even partly speculative – discussion would have added another dimension to these published proceedings. I was also surprised that a chapter on herbicides was not included as, for example, some of the application methods could be useful for other plant growth regulators.

Although I can recommend the contents of this book to forestry and horticultural scientists, tree breeders, nursery managers, and students, I have serious reservations on the standard of general presentation and publication. When purchasing a book with a hard cover and costing almost NZ\$90, I expect reasonable quality. This book was produced from camera-ready copy and the print size and type differ between chapters. Most of the authors are from North America. They could have been asked to submit their manuscripts on computer disks, which would have ensured uniformity of type

at least. The order of the chapters is not logical in terms of the general subject of tree growth. It would appear also that there was minimal editing. Some chapters include keywords, others do not. Abbreviations used for references differ from chapter to chapter. Some chapters have an inexcusable number of spelling mixtapes, typographical errors, and inaccurate references. At least one diagram is reproduced without change from a coloured visual presentation and cannot be followed in black and white. A subject index is provided but is patchy and appears to depend on the whim of the author.

This book was published one year after the papers were presented at a workshop. If need be I would have preferred to have to wait several months more to have a higher standard of publication which does justice to the subject and the manuscripts prepared.

David A. Rook

**FOREST POLICY IN NEW ZEALAND —
AN HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY 1840–1919**

by M. M. Roche

Dunmore Press Ltd, P.O. Box 5115, Palmerston North, New Zealand. 1987.
ISBN 0-86469-067-3. \$24.95.

“Those who do not understand history are condemned to repeat it” – Santanna

Most New Zealanders, in this reviewer’s experience, lack a sense of their own country’s history and of the impact of the past on the present.

“Forest Policy in New Zealand” is a successful attempt to make the first 79 years of management of and policy towards New Zealand’s forests more accessible to us all.

The material in this book is, as the author says in his preface, usually relatively inaccessible being “held as unpublished theses in university libraries” – and, one might add, in the unread archives of various bodies and organisations. The book is a distillation of Dr Roche’s Ph.D. thesis and was written while he was a Post-Doctoral fellow at Massey University.

The period 1840 to 1919 is covered in some six short chapters, which can easily be read by someone with a couple of hours to spare.

In that time the readers will find that the current debates about forest management and the role of Government in forestry are not new. They will also find the beginnings of attitudes towards forestry that persisted at least until the early 1980s. As well, the book provides an insight into the notion of timber famine. This syndrome, which is certainly in vogue at present, has been around for a very long time – with disaster always just some 10 to 40 years ahead of us. Then too, this book offers a perspective on that bible of plantation forestry in New Zealand, the 1913 Royal Commission, somewhat different from that normally encountered. These days portrayed as far-sighted and comprehensive (*see* Sutton 1978 or 1987) for its recognition of the need for plan-