

## CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor,  
New Zealand Journal of Forestry.

Sir,

### Natural Vegetation as a Site Indicator

Ure\* has successfully analysed the site qualities for exotic conifers on the Kaingaroa Plains by using modified plant sociological methods. In the extensive forests of Kaingaroa such a method is of value and all foresters who take the trouble to study Ure's analysis will find it of great use in the field. The method could be extended to other areas, but the author has himself warned readers that the vegetation must be undisturbed—presumably he means in the locality where the study was made. It should moreover be stressed that the method can only be used as simply as Ure has used it where the vegetation approximates the virgin plant cover. The individual plant communities are then a reflection of the growth of any other plants grown on that particular site. Once the original plant cover has been destroyed to any extent, for example by the burning of forest, complications arise in interpreting the secondary vegetation; plant succession, the effect of disturbance to the soil, and so forth have to be taken into account. A very exhaustive plant sociological study would therefore have to be made of the disturbed vegetation before this could be used to indicate site qualities for exotic trees.

Yours faithfully,

A. L. POOLE

Wellington,  
16th January, 1952.

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\*The Natural Vegetation of the Kaingaroa Plains as an Indicator of Site Quality for Exotic Conifers. *N.Z. Journal of Forestry*, Vol. VI, No. 2, 1950.