

PLANTING THE SOUTHERN PINES. By P. C. Wakeley. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Agriculture Monograph No. 18, 1954. 233 pp. Illus. Price \$2.75.

In 1951, the U.S. Forest Service published a preliminary mimeographed version of Wakeley's manuscript, making available to foresters in the southern States the accumulated results of a half-century of knowledge and skill in the establishment of the southern pines, in order to assist their rapidly expanding programme of forest planting. This book is a printed revision of the earlier work, which was not widely distributed. The bulk of the information is drawn from studies made by the Southern Forest Experiment Station since 1922, and from Forest Service records, a number of the research findings being published here for the first time.

The monograph is limited in scope to loblolly, slash, longleaf and shortleaf pines, though minor species are mentioned incidentally. In plan, it follows the successive steps in planting, in the order in which they are usually carried out. The first chapter discusses the bases for policy decisions, most of which must be made before a planting job is started, and includes sections on the choice of species, spacing, site selection, planting costs, and plantation yields. The second deals with seed—its development, yield, collection, extraction, storage, and testing. The third and largest section is concerned with nursery practice, including nursery site and layout, sowing, injuries and their control, and management. The fourth chapter relates to planting, with notes on site preparation and planting methods, and the last discusses the protection and early tending of plantations, including thinning and pruning. Much additional basic information, and details of recommended methods and treatments, is given in a series of appendices. More than 800 references to literature are cited, and the book is illustrated with over 60 well-chosen photographs and diagrams.

In all, the volume is a most useful and convenient handbook of summarized information on the principal southern pines, and a guide to standard practices in their establishment and tending in the United States. As such, it is of great value to foresters concerned with their successful establishment in New Zealand, at least until our own experience in handling these species under local conditions has accumulated and crystallized.

—G.C.W.

A CARD SORTING KEY FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF EUCALYPTS. By N. Hall and R. D. Johnston, Forestry & Timber Bureau, Canberra. Price £A5/15/0 posted.

Any system that will help a botanist to sort out eucalypt species is a great asset and one that will assist foresters and others with limited botanical training to sort out species is of real value. This is exactly what the "Eucalypt Card Sorting Key" prepared by N. Hall and R. D. Johnston can do.