

that all is not as it should be. A problem recognised is half solved. All that we need now is a local Chairman Mao to wrinkle people out from their well-padded corners of complacent assumptions, to make them toil for a while in different fields, to see the view from the other side of the fence. But this, of course, applies to everyone, not just scientists.

Land Alone Endures is well worth reading if you can find it (it seems to have been out of print for a while), and it is a basic reference book for the library of anyone interested in land use. It does not answer all the questions that it asks, nor does it ask them all in the right places, but they are at least asked, and thinking out the answers will do the reader more good than reading someone else's opinion. Also, and refreshingly to a forester, it treats forestry as a land use as rational as any other, and sets the responsibility for forest diminution firmly on agriculture. However, it is curious to see Japan's 67% under forest turn up again. About a third of this (or proportionately six million hectares of New Zealand) is in plantations, a figure which, if derived in other ways as a target, would surely not be accepted without some argument.

J. R. PUREY-CUST

FLORA OF NEW ZEALAND, Volume III, by A. J. Healy and E. Edgar, xlii + 220 pp. Government Printer, Wellington, 1980 (\$18.50).

Ready access to a reliable means of identification is fundamental to the work of both botanist and forester alike. In this, Volume III of the *Flora* continues to set a high standard. The initial reaction, however, is one of disappointment at the continuing trend of restricting the area covered. Termed on the dust jacket a "weed flora" and the first comprehensive account of these plants since 1940, it is on closer inspection confined to the adventive monocots, excluding the grasses. Yet perhaps this merely highlights the magnitude of the task undertaken by the late Dr H. H. Allan with Volume I (all the indigenous vascular plants except the monocots) and Drs L. B. Moore and E. Edgar with Volume II (indigenous monocots minus the grasses). It is to be hoped that the interval between volumes (*ca.* 10 years) can be reduced, as the current text on the grasses is Cheeseman (1925).

Volume III continues a number of helpful features established in Volumes I and II. Keith West, Gabrielle van Bree and Robyn

Conway have maintained the high standard of illustrations. Likewise, the glossary (an essential for those of us without the intricacies of the technical jargon at our fingertips) and the update of relevant taxonomic papers. Also extremely valuable, in this volume, is the inclusion of both indigenous and adventive species in keys and text, when both occur in the same genus.

Short term this excellently presented, robustly bound volume will be a welcome asset both in the field and in the herbarium. Long term, as with Volumes I and II, the proof of a job well done will be in plant specimens correctly identified.

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REFERENCES

- Allan, H. H., 1961. *Flora of New Zealand*. Vol. I. Indigenous Tracheophyta [except Monocotyledons]. Government Printer, Wellington.
 Cheeseman, T. F., 1925. *Manual of the New Zealand Flora*. Government Printer, Wellington.
 Moore, L. B.; Edgar, E., 1970. *Flora of New Zealand*. Vol. II. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Monocotyledones [except Gramineae]. Government Printer, Wellington.

TIMBER INFORMATION SHEETS

A series of information sheets dealing with the availability, physical and mechanical properties and uses of several indigenous and domestically grown and imported exotic species has been produced by the Utilisation Development Division of the New Zealand Forest Service.

Thus far the following sheets are available on request from most Conservancy Offices and by writing to the information section of New Zealand Forest Service, Private Bag, Wellington.

Kahikatea	Larch	Southern Mahogany
Rimu	Macrocarpa	Sydney Blue Gum
Red Beech	Redwood	Alpine Ash
Silver Beech	Karri	Black Walnut
Tawa	Taun	Mountain Ash
Radiata Pine	Balau	Western Red Cedar
Corsican Pine	Kwila	Fijian Kauri
Douglas Fir		Australian Blackwood

These sheets are easily read, informative and two to three pages in length. They are aimed primarily at the general public and users (builders, handymen) and were initiated in response to the many requests received for information and advice on the species and their applications.