

## ALTERNATIVE SPECIES

### THE RESOURCE

### THE MARKETS

Richard Davies-Colley  
Farm Forester  
Whangarei

#### INTRODUCTION

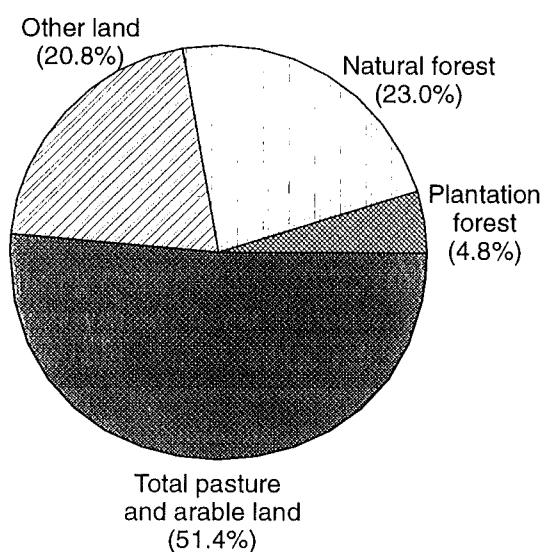
##### The two questions are:

1. Is there a demand for products other than *P. radiata*, Southern pine species and Douglas fir?
2. Is there sufficient resource to supply the demand if it is there?

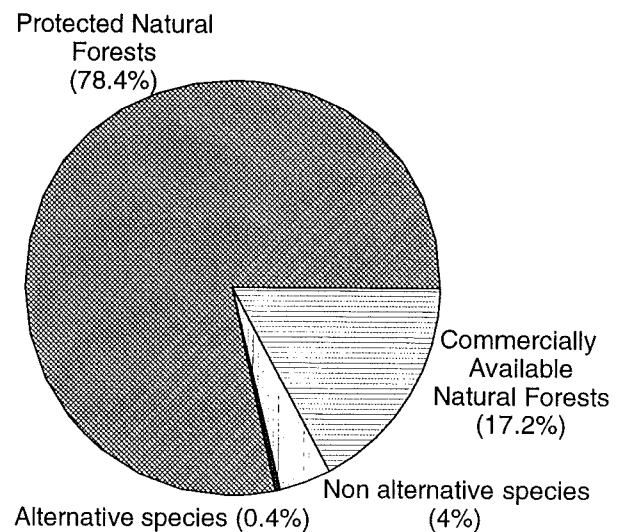
During the years 1972-1981 several forestry and forest industry conferences were held. The findings indicated the need to plant 2000 ha per year, to supply New Zealand's requirements. This would need to rise to cope with both population and demand growth.

##### The Resource

##### Total New Zealand land use:



##### The Total Forested Land:



##### These figures don't reveal the true picture:

The annual production roundwood from the natural forest area available would be about 300,000 m<sup>3</sup> and from the alternative species 600,000 m<sup>3</sup>.

Should there be an intense resource search the area and volume of alternative species may even double.

##### I base my figures on three observations:

1. My knowledge of farmers ability or will to fill in statistical forms,
2. tend to have tunnel vision when driving round the countryside - trees come into focus many miles away.
3. Very small groupings and open spaced trees are seldom recorded.

**The group of alternative species consists of:**

1. Natural forest commercially available 300,000 ha
2. Eucalyptus spp 20,000 ha
3. Cuppressus 4,000 ha
4. Acacia melanoxydon 2,000 ha
5. Populus spp 2,000 ha
6. Others 5,000 ha

These figures look reasonable from a processing Industry's point of view with regard to total volumes.

There are problems though.

1. Much of the Eucalypt resource is planted for pulp.
2. The resource is widely spread geographically.
3. Very little of the resource has received adequate tending.
4. Most of the trees are in very small woodlots- down to single trees.

**THE MARKETS**

Lets look at the sunnyside.

1. New Zealand imports 33 million dollars worth of rough sawn timber a year.
2. An unknown amount of finished products i.e. Furniture, furniture components, profiled flooring, parquet, veneers etc.
3. Our company has weekly demand from overseas for our products.

**SUMMARY**

**Negatives**

1. Total resource is small
2. Very mixed genera and species
3. Main resource of Eucalypts grown for pulp
4. Geographic spread is large
5. Quality is variable

**Positives**

1. The demand both domestic and overseas is growing
2. A rapid reduction of the world resource
3. N.Z. can grow many species well
4. The genetic improvement potential is exciting