

Managing Native Pasture — A Grazier's Guide

By IAN PARTRIDGE. Published by Queensland Department of Primary Industries, 1992. 33 pp. ISBN 0 7242 3909 X.

Produced as part of the Queensland Government Information Series, this booklet provides an outline of the basic principles important in the management of native pastures in Queensland. It is the first in a series being produced as part of a project within the National Soil Conservation Program. The booklet deals in general terms with native pasture management, whereas subsequent publications in the series will consider in greater detail the management of specific pasture communities.

Written in a very simple, easy-to-read style, the booklet is well illustrated with colour photos and appropriate line drawings, which have a clear message and are often humorous as well. The 10 chapters contain a wealth of information presented in a question-and-answer format. Major issues which are covered include: factors affecting grass growth; effects of stocking; indicators of degradation; the role of burning and spelling; using other feeds; coping with drought; property planning; economics of conservative stocking; using computers in planning and decision making; and pasture monitoring.

The final page carries a list of articles for further reading for those who wish to pursue the subject in greater depth. Computer decision support packages are listed along with contact addresses.

Those who have made a detailed study of pastures may consider that this booklet is too simplistic and too general in its recommendations. However, for the target audience i.e. the average Queensland grazier, this booklet is pitched at the correct level and identifies the key factors to be considered in the management of native pastures. It does not provide detailed recommendations for specific pasture types and it is necessary for graziers to obtain a copy of the field manual for their particular pasture community, produced as part of the series e.g. *Managing Southern Speargrass — A Grazier's Guide*.

This booklet will be useful for students who are seeking a basic understanding of native pasture management and is essential reading for all persons who have responsibility for management of native pastures in Queensland. Native pastures are an integral part of our beef and wool industries. Responsible management of native pastures is essential to ensure the future of these industries. *Managing Native Pastures — A Grazier's Guide* will provide a firm base for pasture managers to develop and implement sustainable management practices. It should at least whet the appetite of the reader to pursue the topic further by obtaining further publications from this series.

Lyle Winks