

# ▲ INTRODUCTION

New Zealand's plantation forests consist largely of one species, *Pinus radiata*, a Californian pine introduced into the country in the mid 1800s. It rapidly established a reputation for good growth rates, disease resistance, and versatility of end uses. New Zealand radiata pine became the preferred species for production forests and a rapid expansion of plantings commenced in the 1960s.

These high-productivity forests now cover over 1 million hectares and much of the wood produced will be available for export in log and processed form in increasing quantities from the 1990s. Because New Zealand radiata pine has an excellent response to pruning and thinning, many of the forests will produce significant quantities of pruned butt logs suitable for the production of clear lumber for high-quality end uses (Fig. 1). The unpruned logs produce lumber for a complete range of other structural and manufacturing uses.

This booklet introduces the potential user to the properties of New Zealand radiata pine and the processes used to manufacture a wide variety of products (other than those based on chipped or pulped wood) for which this species is eminently suitable.

**FIG. 1—Forecast of future availability of logs from New Zealand plantations\***

