

POST-FIRE RECOVERY OF 10 YEAR-OLD PINUS CARIBAEA VAR.
HONDURENSIS TREES IN THE CENTRAL HILLS OF SRI LANKA.

Ajith H. Perera
Dept. of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture,
University of Peradeniya.

A crown fire occurred in a 10 year-old Pinus caribaea stand in central Sri Lanka. These trees (mean DBH 13.1 cm) were surveyed for recovery, one year after the fire. More than 1/3 of the trees have died, and only 9% trees have recovered fully. A further 1/3 was also not likely to survive. There was a strong diameter-dependance in recovery. More trees were dead in the smaller diameter classes than in the succeeding larger classes. More trees were fully recovered larger diameter classes than in the preceding smaller classes. The estimated loss in canopy cover is over 60%, which will increase soil erosion by more than 10 times. The practice of fire-protection in P. caribaea plantation only up to 3 to 6 years is therefore an unacceptable risk in watersheds.