

GROWING LUPINS FOR SEED.

C. JESSON, Rotorua :—

I intend growing about 2 acres of white lupins for seed purposes, and shall be glad of a little information as to sowing, manuring, and harvesting.

The Fields Division :—

Lupins for seed should be sown in the spring as soon as danger from frosts is over. Sow in 14 in. drills at the rate of $1\frac{1}{4}$ bushels per acre. Superphosphate, 1 cwt. per acre, drilled with the seed would be beneficial. The crop should be harvested with a mower fitted with a short knife, and the cut material should be forked back as it is cut to prevent the horses treading on it and knocking the seed out. When dry it should be stacked and then left in the stack about six or eight weeks before threshing. The average yield of seed is about 25 bushels per acre.

NON-BEARING PEAR-TREES.

H. WIGMORE, Mercury Bay :—

I have two pear-trees, a William Bon Chretien and a Packham's Triumph, and neither bears any fruit, although they have blossomed for several years. Would you tell me if those varieties are self-sterile, and, if so, what kinds would be required to fertilize them? I have twenty-seven hives of bees, so do not think there can be any fault in that way. The trees are six or seven years of age.

The Horticulture Division :—

Special pruning methods are necessary to bring pear-trees into bearing at an early age; they do not, as a rule, fruit so early as do apples. You give no indication as to what growth the trees have made, nor of the pruning done. It frequently happens that trees that make heavy growth may blossom but fail to set fruit, because the strong growth made diverts sap from the flowering portions of the tree and the blossoms are weakened. If the trees are making strong growth, do no pruning for a year or two. This will cause the cessation of strong growth and promote the development of fruit-buds. The Bon Chretien pear is self-fertile, therefore the want of cross-fertilization would not account for it not bearing. It is not known whether Packham's Triumph is self-fertile or not. Authorities who have investigated the matter state that any two varieties will pollinate each other if their flowering-period is practically the same, and that is the case with Bon Chretien and Packham's Triumph.

CONTROL OF RAGWORT.

J. B. T., Dunedin :—

Would you kindly inform me if it is worth while cutting down ragwort if it is in its yellow flower? I commenced to cut some on my place and was told by a neighbour that I was simply wasting my time, as the cut plants would ripen and seed.

The Live-stock Division (Noxious Weeds Inspection) :—

For effectively controlling ragwort, where it is not possible to well stock with sheep, when the plant is young frequent cutting must be resorted to before it flowers, thus preventing the growth of leaves. If flowering of the weed is permitted, and it is afterwards cut down, there is no doubt sufficient sap in the stem to mature a proportion of the seed. In such cases and where the weed is only on small areas much good might be done by either pulling up the roots or by cutting the plant beneath the surface, or by cutting down, gathering, and burning it. This, however, should be done at least in the early flowering stage, and not when the seed has matured and shed.