

## LIMING.

The coming month is a suitable time for liming operations, it being a great advantage to get the carting done before the land is too wet. Lime is best applied to the ploughed surface, as it quickly works down. The question as to which form of lime to use is one for each farmer to determine for himself. In many districts carbonate of lime (raw crushed limestone) is satisfactory, but if very quick results are desired the burnt form should be used. Again, if the lime has to be carted long distances there is a saving in haulage in the case of burnt compared with the carbonate, as about 12 cwt. of the former is equivalent to 1 ton of the latter. Against this advantage the greater cost of burnt lime must be taken into consideration, this being on average some 70 per cent. more than for the carbonate. The unpleasantness of distributing burnt lime is also a factor in the pros and cons.

Except where the land is of a very sour nature the best results are usually obtained by light and frequent dressings, as against heavy dressings at long intervals—say, 6 cwt. to 10 cwt. of carbonate or half this quantity of burnt. Considerable benefit may be derived from even half these quantities. It should be remembered that liming cannot be fully efficacious unless the land is properly drained.

## LUCERNE.

After the last cut of the season has been taken the stand should be closed for winter, and not trampled by stock as is frequently the case. The autumn cultivation is best done with at least two strokes of the rigid-tined cultivator to a depth of 5 in. to 6 in., and the land left in a rough state to be mellowed by the effects of frost. Early cultivation will allow the stand to make a few inches of protective growth before severe weather sets in. Lucerne will benefit by autumn applications of lime or manure at the time of grubbing the stand; 10 cwt. per acre of ground burnt lime or 2 cwt. per acre of super are suitable dressings.

Land in which it is intended to sow lucerne next season should be ploughed during the autumn, limed, and thoroughly cultivated through the winter. These cultivations germinate and destroy weed-seeds, especially when continued in the spring. They also promote the firm, sweet seed-bed so necessary in the establishment of lucerne.

## GROWING LUPINS FOR SEED.

The growing of blue lupins for seed is on the increase in the Marlborough and Nelson Districts. Sowing may be carried out with advantage during April, the optimum rate being about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  bushels or 90 lb. per acre. A mixture of 5 cwt. lime with 1 cwt. super, or  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. super mixed with  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. rock phosphate, constitutes a satisfactory fertilizer. The crop is best cut with the binder, as the small sheaves may then be stooked in round stooks with a fork. If the pods then split, as they frequently do, the seeds fall into the centre of the stook, and are less easily lost than when the crop is cut with the ordinary mower. For this reason it is a wise precaution to leave a strip of about 5 yards undrilled all round the headlands, thus obviating the necessity of opening out with the binder.