

(2) Before filling the cases with fruit, line them with newspaper.

(3) Pine plantation, macrocarpa hedges, or other shelter or wind breaks are very often found to be suitable for orchard storage.

(4) Place timber under the cases as dunnage to protect the case and to provide for air movement under the stacks.

(5) When stacking fruit cases, leave open spaces to provide for a good air circulation around each tier of cases. Throughout the stacks two or three

inches between each tier of cases is recommended.

(6) Cover the top of the stack with galvanised iron, and place old sacks, straw, grass, or scrub on top of the iron to hold moisture and give added cooling effect.

(7) The stack should not be more than eight cases wide, but may be as long as required. The long sides should face in the direction of prevailing winds.

(8) Give the roofing iron an inclination from the centre of the stack to

both sides and a hang-over of about one foot or more on each side of the stack.

(9) Place scrim on the edge of the galvanised iron roof and fasten the bottom of the scrim to the ground. This will allow water from the roof to be distributed over the scrim on the sides, thus increasing the humidity of the air as it passes through the scrim forming the sides. If scrim is not available brush may be used for the sides (both would be advantageous).

Purchase of Lucerne Seed

WHEN lucerne seed is being bought from retailers, possibly even a little more care should be exercised in the purchase of this seed than with certain other seeds. The reason for this is that lucerne seed moves slowly on the markets, and small retailers are liable to hold supplies over long periods, during which time deterioration occurs. Then, again, seasons of scarcity are followed by production well in excess of requirements, and large bulk stocks may be held for some years.

Fresh seed of high germination should be plump and bright yellow in colour. Seed with a proportion of brown or tan coloured seed should be avoided, as this "off" colour indicates deterioration through age.

Newly-harvested lucerne seed may contain a high proportion of hard seeds, that is, living seeds impermeable to moisture, which may lie in soil for long periods of months or even years before they naturally soften and germinate.

Lucerne seed imported into New Zealand, mainly from South Africa and occasionally Australia, is specially differentiated from New Zealand Marlborough-grown by the presence of 10 per cent. of seed stained red.

As the success of the subsequent stand, especially in competition with weeds, depends to no small degree on vigorous seedling establishment, it is essential that only seed of highest purity and germination be used, and buyers should, in all cases, base their seed selection, not on price, but on test percentages of not less than 98 per

cent. purity and 90 per cent. germination tests, which should have been made not more than six months previously.

—N. R. FOY, *Officer-in-Charge,*
Seed Testing Station,
Palmerston North.

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