

**RUATANGATA NURSERY**  
(Area, 65 acres; altitude, 320 ft.)

The past year has been the wettest experienced here since the inception of the nursery, rain falling on 200 days, with a total fall of 95·66 in., the maximum rainfall being in March, when 13·78 in. were recorded for twenty days. January and February were exceedingly dry months, the respective records being 0·19 in. and 0·68 in.; and for the corresponding months of last year the rainfall was 11·41 in. and 11·30 in.

Maximum temperature, 82°; and minimum temperature, 30°.

The year, taken as a whole, has been an exceedingly good one for tree-growing and cropping.

Trees to the number of 268,750 were lined out at an average cost of 3s. 5½d. per thousand. This work was commenced on the 13th June, and, owing to unfavourable weather, was not completed until the 15th October. *Podocarpus totara* have made excellent growth, some thousands attaining a height of 2 ft. 6 in. Kahikatea, juniper, redwood, &c., have done well; tideland, spruce have made only fair growth; while Oregon pine have proved a complete failure.

Podocarpus seed was gathered in September, and kept moist in a pit, with the result that from about 60 lb. of seed a crop of 157,000 fine strong plants resulted.

Very satisfactory results were obtained from 12 lb. *Sequoia sempervirens* seed, sown on the 19th October. The seed produced 37,000 sturdy seedlings about 4 in. in height.

On the 13th November 2 lb. each of the following eucalypti-seed were sown—*Eucalyptus rosstrata*, *E. resinifera*, and *E. redunca*; and on the 9th December the same quantities of *E. amygdalina* and *E. Stuartiana*, also 3 lb. *Acacia melanoxylon* seed: all of these have done well. The different species of eucalypti grown in the experimental plantation have done well, with the exception of *Eucalyptus regnans*, *E. crebra*, and *E. teretecornis*. *E. hamastoma* has attained a height of 15 ft., with a girth of 14 in.; *E. virgata*, *E. pauciflora*, *E. Stuartiana*, *E. amygdalina*, *E. corynocalyx*, Californian, and redwood have done well.

Cork-oaks are growing slowly, but 240 seedlings are doing well.

Suitable labour not being procurable in the district, six Natives (two men, four women) were temporarily transferred from Rotorua Nursery to this station for the purpose of mossing the eucalypti. 353,230 trees were mossed at an average cost of 10s. 3d. per thousand, details of which will be found on Schedule 4.

The total number of trees of all ages in the nursery at 31st March, 1908, was 761,410, valued at £1,715 4s. 3d.; 490,790 trees, valued at £1,295 11s. 8d., were transferred to Puhipuhi Plantation during the season.

The approximate number of trees available for planting this season is 585,000. The total number of trees raised in this nursery since May, 1903, is 1,637,868, valued at £4,073 13s. 9d.

The total number of trees transferred to Puhipuhi Plantation since the inception of this nursery is 951,795, valued at £2,562 18s. 4d.

**Buildings.**—An additional room, 10 ft. by 12 ft., was added to the Natives' whare; and, the workshop being too small for the accommodation of Natives mossing gums, the implement-shed was converted into a workshop, and a lean-to erected for implements, &c.

**General.**—During the summer land was graded for lining-out ground; seed-bed ground extended; 16 chains of stone drains, 4 ft. by 3 ft., and 4½ chains 3 in. drain-tiles, were put down for the purpose of draining the nursery; 15 chains of drains were opened up in the horse-paddock; the metalling of main road was completed; main entrance-gates were removed to a more convenient site; and a 5 ft. picket fence erected 22 ft. on either side. For the purpose of carting stone for drains, a road was formed through to back paddock, this necessitating a breast cutting of 2 chains in length, averaging about 4 ft. deep, the road being 10 ft. wide. A stone culvert was built, 14 ft. wide, across the creek, behind the stable. An odd corner in the nursery, about one-third of an acre, was planted with flax at 8 ft. apart, and is doing well.

Eight chains of boundary-fencing was re-erected, the former posts having rotted, and the wire having been rendered worthless owing to the continuous fires in gorse on adjoining land.

Oaten sheaves were grown to the value of £72.

The average number of persons employed during the year was—men, 8·32; boys, 1·22; women, 1·46: total, 11.

The following is a record of the rainfall and temperature for the year:—

Month.	Rainfall.	Number of Days of Rain.	Maximum Temperature.	Date.	Minimum Temperature.	Date.
1907.	Inches.		Degrees.		Degrees.	
April ... ..	9·87	15	78	25th	38	1st
May ... ..	5·14	14	65	4th	30	15th
June ... ..	8·83	15	62	5th and 6th	30	17th
July ... ..	11·39	29	62	22nd	33	10th
August ... ..	11·26	27	59	19th and 30th	33	4th and 12th
September ... ..	4·59	20	66	26th	30	18th
October ... ..	6·54	16	68	24th	35	17th
November ... ..	3·23	14	74	28th	42	1st
December ... ..	10·16	14	79	16th	45	2nd and 4th
1908.						
January ... ..	0·19	3	82	11th	48	19th
February ... ..	10·68	13	79	16th	45	8th and 14th
March ... ..	13·78	20	80	6th	42	17th
Totals ... ..	95·66	200	...	...	...	...