

Correspondence.

To the Editor, Irish Forestry.

Sir,

I read with interest Mr. Finnerty's valuable note concerning the raising of birch from seed in last summer's issue of "Irish Forestry." In this connection we had an experience here in Ballinglen state forest nursery which may be of interest to readers.

A few years ago we used some birch branches for covering 1 year seedbeds of *Abies alba* against frost lift and frost shoot damage. The branches, which bore a good many fruits, were cut in October and laid on supporting wires about one foot above the beds. On removal of the branches in the following June we were pleasantly surprised to find a fine crop of birch seedlings mixed through those of the *Abies alba*. As the latter were a thin crop both species co-existed very satisfactorily until they were lifted in the following spring.

Yours faithfully,

J. Rouine.

Ballinglen,

Co. Wicklow.
