

OR/JW

27th April, 1964.

Dr. Otto H. Frankel,
C.S.I.R.O.
P.O. Box 109,
CANBERRA CITY.....A.C.T.

Dear Dr. Frankel,

Probably you remember me as "the man with the beans". About two years ago I gave to you a short reprint entitled Reversed Bean Vines. Since then I have made further advances in the art. These will appear soon in the Journal of Genetics. Now I am testing lilies.

It is well known that mechanical deformation of young fruit trees hastens their maturity and increases the yield. Wheat might be a suitable plant for such manipulations. I suggest that two small plots be set aside for such tests.

One plot is to have about half the stalks selected in a random manner at an early stage. These young stalks are to be tied in an open loop knot with tip pointing up. The remainder of stalks are to be left alone, as reference. Notes should be kept for speed of growth and maturity. In due time the two classes of stalks are to be carefully harvested separately. Number, size, weight of kernels in the head plus weight of dried stalk and weight of husk holding kernels are to be determined. Comparison will show in what manner the plant reacts to this handling.

The above steps may put the tied stalks at a disadvantage for sunlight compared to normal stalks. To overcome this, a second circular plot could be used. All the stalks in the outside

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thirty percent of radius are to be tied. The stalks on inside area are to be left alone as reference.

Perhaps you have a spare experimental officer who would like to try this scheme. Your consideration, comments and suggestions will be much appreciated by me.

Dr. Martin sends his regards,

Yours faithfully,

G. Reber.