

Wykeham Research Nursery Picture Taken 1955 with Brownie Box Camera.

The photograph shown below shows expts. Conducted there in 1955, some of these were carried out at the same time at other nurseries throughout Silv. (N) area, places like Inchnacardoch, Black Isle, Teindland, Devilla, Tulliallan, Bush, Benmore, Mabie, Fleet, Wykeham, Broxa and Newton.

The 1955 ones at Wykeham were all centred on growing Sitka Spruce to meet increasing demand for utilising it in large planting programmes and that it could be successful on heathland when planted in mixture with Larch.

The image shows the large labels with expt Numbers and project object. The one in the foreground was Expt. 5 P.55 Sterilisation of beds. There were five treatments and five Blocks = 25 plots. The small labels indicate the plot treatment letters. The plots were one square yard and 500 viable seeds were sown per plot. The seeds were hand counted and packaged for each plot. The way they were accurately counted was to empty some seed on to a pane of glass and move them over into groups of 10 and when you had 100 place them in a packet and when you got to five groups label the packet and seal it.

Temperature was recorded on site every day as was rainfall. The beds were inspected every day for bird, mouse or cut worm damage and any damage recorded.

The beds were subject to count assessments and height assessments. At Broxa our biggest expt was a long term fertiliser expt. The BS group with 288 plots. It took a week to asses. We were sitting up there at Reasty top with World War II greatcoats on battling our way through the plots, at Inchnacardoch and Benmore rain was more of a problem and they had a mobile shelter over the beds.

