

Table 2. Characteristics and relative proportion of different classes in the seed lot of the 'Lebanese Local' cultivar (landrace) and their field performance in Shawbak "off-season" nursery.

Class	Appearance of seed	100-seed weight (g)	Weight (g) in whole lot	Number in whole lot	Performance in Shawbak		Number of plants with			
					No. planted	Germinated No. percent	pink flower	white intermediate flower		
A	Normal kabuli type	34.50	1864.3	5400	10	4	40	0	4	0
B	Small, roundish, white	13.70	4.1	30	20	9	45	0	9	0
C	Large, intermediate, roundish, rough surface	33.30	3.3	10	7	4	57	0	2	2
D	Desi type, but whitish brown	22.70	23.6	104	40	32	80	31	1	0
E	Desi type, brown	24.00	6.0	25	16	14	87	12	1	1
F	Desi type, brown with blackish spots on the testa	26.75	3.7	14	10	9	90	9	0	0
G	Immature seeds	14.44	1.3	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
H	Foreign material	-	19.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

field evaluation of different classes of seeds in the future.

- M.C. Saxena (ICARDA).

Response to Plant Population Density

We have often observed that the plant populations in farmers' fields are generally lower than the recommended population. Where the growth duration is long, deficiency in plant population can be partly overcome by better growth in the remaining plants. However, such a response may be of a low magnitude in locations where growth duration is short. The ability to partially compensate for the reduction in yield at lower plant population is termed "plasticity". Plasticity is the comparative ability of a cultivar to produce more or less stable yields over a range of population densities. Breeding for plasticity may be of use in stabilizing yields at the farmer level.

We have found cultivar differences in plasticity under conditions of short (ICRISAT Center, Hyderabad) and long (Hissar, North India) growth duration. The cultivar differences in plasticity can be screened by growing the cultivars in replications, at two populations, one recommended for that region and the other much lower. For example, we have used low population densities of 8 and 4 plants/m² at ICRISAT Center and at Hissar, respectively, for comparison with the recommended population of 33 plants/m². The ratio of yields at the two densities will give a measure of plasticity. In highly plastic cultivars, this ratio tends to reach unity. This field technique, for screening for plasticity, is simple and easy.

- N.P. Saxena (ICRISAT).

Pathology

International Chickpea Disease Nurseries

The International Chickpea Root Rots/Wilt Nursery (ICRRWN) - 1979-80 has been sent to 31 locations in 19 countries. The Nursery consists of 56 entries that have been contributed by ICRISAT and Punjab Agricultural University, Gurdaspur Station, India.

The Chickpea International Ascochyta Blight Nursery (CIABN) is now being composed jointly by ICARDA (Syria) and ICRISAT. For 1979-80 the nursery has been sent from ICARDA to 26 locations in 16 countries.

Cooperators are requested to contribute 2 kg seed of the entries which they have