

WIRE-BOUND CRATE
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The packing method used by the Morgan Nursery consists of a wire-bound wrap-around crate **11**. Dimensions of this crate are 22 inches long, **16** inches wide, 10 inches high, with three slats 4-1/2 inches wide by 1/8-inch thick veneer in bottom and top of crate. The slats are spaced 1-1/2 inches apart. Two slats 4-1/2 inches wide by 1/8-inch thick on sides spaced 1 inch apart. One-inch by 1-inch cleats on both ends of crate are cut on 45° angles. The crate is wire-bound with 15 gauge galvanized wire on both ends, two **16** gauge galvanized wires in center of crate and stapled with 20 gauge staples. The crate is closed by interlooping wires and then bending down. Normal crate capacity for slash and loblolly pine is 2,000 seedlings.

Advantages of crates

1. Stores better in holding shed.
2. Does not heat excessively.
3. Hauls and stacks better.
4. Needs less water in storage.
5. Takes less equipment to handle crates (no strapping machines, steel seals, or upkeep on machines).
6. No skill required to close crates.
7. Adaptable to field packing operations.
8. Packages can be easily opened for inspection.
9. Crate can be reused.

Disadvantage of crates

1. Requires more storage space for empty crates.
2. Number of plants per crate must be reduced if very large plants are being shipped.
3. Will break slats and wire if packed too full.

1/ See: Georgia's wrap-around seedling crate. U. S. Forest Serv.,
Tree Planters' Notes 45:7-9, illus.