NOTE

A FERTILIZER SPREADER FOR PLAT TREATMENT

A homemade hand-drawn fertilizer spreader has recently been designed by the writer (as shown in Fig. 1) and has been successfully used in applying fertilizer in an experimental way. Such a tool has been needed to secure more uniform distribution of fertilizers in experimental work, to lessen the disagreeable feature of making such application, and to avoid interference by wind.

FIG. 1.

This sower is made by using \( \frac{3}{4} \) inch gas pipe for a shaft and old bicycle rims for wheels. The handle is from a lawn mower and can be detached along with one wheel, which is free to turn on the shaft, so that the tool can be placed in the rear of a run-about Ford for moving about in field fertilizer work. The hopper is made of a cylinder of 18-gage galvanized sheet metal. Feed holes are 1 inch in diameter and spaced 6 inches, while strips along either side carry a shutter with holes of the same dimension to adjust the rate of application as desired. Heavy wires passed through drill holes in the shaft carry brushes made from the inter-liner of an old automobile tire which serve as agitators for sweeping out the fertilizer drill box. Further improvements might be made by substituting metal wire brushes and by providing an opening that would extend the full length of the hopper to make easier access to the interior. This could be done by cutting out a segment or stip of the cylinder full length, which should be hinged, as shown in Fig. 1. A slat attached back of the hopper and carrying a hay-loader tooth to follow each feed hole should harrow dry material in sufficiently to prevent blowing about in the wind. The illustration shows the result of applying