FURROW VERSUS SURFACE PLANTING WINTER WHEAT\textsuperscript{1}

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Considerable interest has developed in the comparative merits of surface and furrow grain drills for planting winter wheat under the soil and climatic conditions of eastern Nebraska. This interest has spread from the enthusiastic adoption of the furrow drill during recent years by many wheat growers in the drier sections of several hard winter wheat states, including western Nebraska, western Kansas, northeastern Colorado, Wyoming, western Texas, and Montana. Furthermore, manufacturers have been divided in their recommendation of furrow drills for eastern Nebraska. Accordingly, tests were undertaken on the Experiment Station farm at Lincoln which were designed to supply the desired information and to account for any differences that might result.

TYPES OF DRILLS TESTED

Furrow drills.—Three standard makes of furrow drills which differed with respect to their mode of seed distribution within the drill row were included in the test each year. One drill dropped the seed in narrow rows which were opened with disks and spaced 12 inches apart. Another was a shoe drill which distributed the seed in rows about 4 inches wide and 14 inches apart. The third opened the furrows with disks spaced 14 inches apart and placed the seed in rows of intermediate width.

These drills were loaned by the manufacturers who cooperated further by having personal representatives assist in seeding the plats during the first year or two.

Surface drills.—For comparison with furrow drilling, wheat was also surface planted with a standard 7-inch disk drill and with a disk alfalfa drill which spaced the rows 4 inches apart.

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