NOTES

A SEED DROPPER FOR CEREAL NURSERY ROWS

The seed dropper described here has been adapted from the chain-drive model of the Columbia planter that has been on the market for several years. It was rebuilt by the instrument shop at the Iowa State College at a cost of approximately $16.00. (See Fig. 1.)

The tool consists of a belt operating in the bottom of a trough, with an adjustable gate that may be set for different row lengths. The ratio of speed of the seed belt to that of the drive wheel is approximately 1:12, but the dropper needs calibrating for each length of row.

The speed with which the dropper can be operated depends upon the ability and experience of the operator and the weather conditions under which he must work. In the hands of a skillful operator, using wheat for seed and working under good weather conditions, 150 rows per hour is not impossible. With no previous experience, three workmen averaged 70 rows per hour for their first day’s work on a nursery that had been previously marked and the seed packets distributed to the plats. Experienced operators, using oats, barley, wheat, and flax will average from 90 to 100 rows per hour in good weather. When the wind is high or if the seed is very light, the sowing will be slowed down considerably. The dropper can be used in higher wind velocities than are permissible for hand sowing.

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