ceptible variety are heavily infected with rust by artificial inoculation in the greenhouse during late winter and these plants are then set at intervals throughout the borders in early spring. Approximately 16 square feet space about the rusted plants is then covered by a wood frame 4 feet square and 2 feet high. The frame is covered with cotton sheeting. Fig. 1 shows one of these frames in position in the field.

Late in the evening of each of several succeeding days the ground within and immediately surrounding this frame is watered and the cloth covering is draped down on all sides and thoroughly wetted. The frame then serves as a moist chamber and maintains atmospheric conditions quite favorable for infection and spread of rust. It also affords protection to the transplanted plants from spring frosts. After the plants growing on the area covered have been inoculated, the frames may then be moved to other locations. Only a few infection centers are necessary if the rust-susceptible variety occurs frequently in the planting order.

Rust infection induced in the manner described, especially when started early in the season, usually spreads rapidly from these infection centers through the rust-susceptible border variety if later conditions are at all suitable. Usually a very general prevalence of rust infection may be established in the breeding nursery while nearby fields show little or no rust. While this method of inducing an artificial epiphytotic of rust has only been applied in connection with the oat breeding program, the author believes that it may very well be employed in initiating early infection of those rusts attacking other grains.—S. J. HADDEN, Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station, Experiment, Georgia.

A METHOD OF PREPARING SOME NATIVE GRASS SEEDS FOR HANDLING AND SEEDING

The reestablishment of grass on barren range and on abandoned cultivated lands is of increasing interest and importance throughout the Great Plains. The lack of sufficient adapted, introduced, or cultivated species makes it desirable to use native grass species. One of the most serious problems in the handling of these species is seed character. For species to be useful in the regrassing program, it should be possible to seed them through the ordinary grain drill. If this is not possible, the species can be of only minor value.

Several of the more important species of native grasses have seed characters that make them difficult to clean and virtually impossible to seed with standard drill equipment. Some have long awns, and some have a combination of awn and various types of pubescence on the seed coat.

An attempt has been made to treat mechanically some grass seeds for the removal of awns and hairs. A hammer mill was first used in

1This paper is a contribution from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service Nursery Section, on work done at Mandan, North Dakota, in cooperation with J. T. Sarvis, Bureau of Plant Industry, Division of Dry Land Agriculture, and George A. Rogler, Division of Forage Crops and Diseases, at the Northern Great Plains Field Station, Mandan.