NOTES

A DISC SCARIFIER FOR KUDZU SEED

A locally constructed disc scarifier at the Soil Conservation Service nursery, Rock Hill, S. C., scarifies seed of kudzu, Pueraria thunbergiana, Benth., more efficiently than either sulfuric acid or three other mechanical scarifiers. The disc scarifier (Fig. 1) was constructed by Nursery Manager W. H. Rhodes and V. L. Crook, automobile mechanic, at the suggestion of the writer. It is a modification of one developed previously and used by the U. S. Forest Service for scarifying seed of forest trees.

Kudzu seed have relatively thick brittle seedcoats difficult to scarify adequately without cracking. The new disc scarifier gently grinds these seedcoats without cracking the most fragile coats. This type of seed scarifier might be used advantageously in scarifying hard brittle seed of other agronomic crops. Details of construction and operation of the disk scarifier will be furnished interested agrono-

Fig. 1.—Scarifier with cover raised. A batch of scarified kudzu seed is being emptied from the scarifier.