Notes

ARTIFICIAL FOG FACILITATES PASPALUM EMASCULATION

The fertile flowers of the species in the genus *Paspalum* are enclosed in thick, horny glumes called the lemma and palea. These glumes clasp each other so tightly that it is extremely difficult to open them before anthesis normally occurs. This characteristic, together with the small size of the florets, makes emasculation several days before anthesis so difficult as to be impractical. It has been necessary, therefore, to emasculate the florets of these grasses when the lemma and palea normally open at the time of anthesis. If care is exercised at this time, the anthers may be removed with tweezers before they have dehisced. This method of emasculation is effective only if the anthers are removed before they dehisce and shed pollen. The technique may also fail if the anthers are crushed by the tweezers forcing pollen grains onto the stigmas. Examination of each stigma with a

FIG. 1.—Humidifier used for creating artificial fog.

1Cooperative investigation at Tifton, Ga., of the Division of Forage Crops and Diseases, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, the Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, and the Georgia Experiment Station.