ADAPTATION OF A COMMERCIAL TYPE WHEAT DRILL FOR NURSERY SEEDING

NURSERY seeders have been described by Grafius, by Hurlbut, Bell, and Dreier, and by Frey and Down in the June 1949, April 1950, and August 1950 issues of the Agronomy Journal, respectively. The seeder described below differs from the above in that it is an adaptation of a drill used in commercial wheat production.

The heavy Pullman clay loam of the Amarillo Conservation Experiment Station, the predominant soil type of the Texas High Plains, is somewhat difficult to work, and rapid drying of the surface soil after cultivation makes relative deep seeding necessary to obtain uniform stands of small grain. There are only a few days in the fall in many years when surface moisture is sufficient to obtain good stands promptly.

Frequently, this period is too short to complete small grain nursery plantings with hand operated equipment and with the limited labor available at the station.

In 1949 the shovel-type deep furrow drill was modified, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, for planting small grain nursery plots. The eight shovels of the drill, which are spaced 14 inches apart and normally staggered in two rows across the drill, were easily placed in line on the frame where only the front shovels are normally attached. This permits the operator to start the seeding of the eight rows at the same time.

The bulk seed box was removed and V-belts were mounted above each of the eight seed tubes which are enclosed by wind boards.