COGON GRASS IN MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA

The writer recently learned of an additional area of Cogon grass, *Imperata cylindrica*, in the southeastern United States. The center is at Grand Bay, Mobile County, Ala. Infested spots occur 15 to 20 miles from the center. Probably the total area covered by the grass is more than 500 acres.

According to two long-time residents of Grand Bay, H. E. Gere and George Jackson, this grass appeared soon after the unpacking of a large shipment of satsuma orange plants from Japan during the winter of 1911-12. The plants came bare root in boxes lined with hay. The hay was discarded and, at this spot, Cogon grass became established. It was soon named Japanese grass and later abbreviated to Jap grass.

The spread of Cogon grass from its point of introduction just east of Grand Bay has doubtless been due to wind-blown seed and stolons transported along highways by road machinery. No planned plantings were known by the individuals interviewed.

The aggressive weediness of Cogon grass in cultivated fields and its limited value for forage were generally recognized by the farmers about Grand Bay. Many were searching for an effective method of eradication.—Paul Tabor, U. S. Soil Conservation Service, Spartanburg, S. C.

A MACHINE FOR HARVESTING HAY AND SMALL GRAINS

The increasing use of statistical analyses on yield trials of hay and small grains has tended to increase the number of replications and the total number of plots to be harvested in many experiments. This has greatly increased labor costs where the hand sickle and square-yard method of harvesting are still employed. Cutting square yards in a complicated yield experiment is so distasteful to present day labor that its recruitment has often been a "bottleneck," especially for widely scattered experimental fields where travel time is involved as well.

A few years ago the author attempted to utilize a well-known sickle bar mower with little success. The difficulties with this machine were: (a) lack of traction, (b) no clutch

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[Agronomy Journal 41:270. 1949. Fig. 1.](#)