Notes

SMALL GRAIN NURSERY HARVESTER

A successful mechanical harvester for small grain nursery plots was designed and used during the 1952 season at Texas Substation No. 6, Denton. With minor changes in the sickle, this type of machine may be used for forage crops as well. The machine was constructed at a cost of approximately $600.00 and additional machines can be contracted for at a local machine shop. The harvester was designed for cutting the two center rows of a 4-row nursery plot, leaving the guard rows unharvested for observation of lodging and shattering of the strains. The two guard rows of the 4-row plots are 3 feet apart, which provides ample space for the harvester to operate. This machine can be used to harvest the guard rows later and also for cutting single-row nursery plots.

An earlier harvester constructed by remodeling a Jari Power Scythe was fairly satisfactory but lacked sufficient power and traction for unfavorable conditions. The new harvester, four views of which are shown in figure 1, is constructed around the mower unit from a Bolens garden tractor, Model 12BB. This mower unit is complete in itself and needs only to be activated through a V-belt attachment. The sickle bar is moved completely to the left and cut to 16 inches in length. The dividers gather in the stalks from a width of 22 inches. The cutting mechanism is operated with a separate clutch so that it may be operated independently of the propulsion mechanism. Ample power is available from the 2.5-horsepower Briggs and Stratton gasoline engine.