A TIME-SAVING HAND STAMP

AGRONOMIC research entails numerous routine tasks. One of these tasks is preparation of labels for various kinds of samples, commonly involving manifold reproduction of the same information. For example, all tags for a field test might have a caption describing the experiment, with individual plots identified by simply changing treatment designations and replication numbers.

Rubber hand stamps, long used in making labels, have several distinct disadvantages: (1) They require frequent re-inking, (2) a different stamp is needed for each job, and (3) cost may be prohibitive if a large number of stamps is needed.

Hand stencil duplicators overcome these difficulties. Used like rubber stamps, these units print copy from stencils prepared by writing or typing. One stencil and one inking produce dozens of clear impressions. Each stencil costs only a few cents and may be saved for re-use.

Figure 1 illustrates a small stencil duplicator, a blank stencil, and examples of uses of the duplicator in a grass-breeding program. Larger models of the duplicator are available. H. M. Schaar, Research Agronomist, Crops Research Division, ARS, USDA, Mandan, North Dakota.

EFFECT OF PLANTING DATE ON SEED PRODUCTION IN RUSSIAN WILD-RYE (Elymus junceus Fisch.)

RUSSIAN wildrye is a highly nutritious and palatable perennial bunchgrass adapted to semi-arid and arid regions of northwestern United States and southwestern Canada. Despite these desirable qualities, seed production problems have hampered use of the species. Several of these problems were treated in previous papers. In addition, observations have indicated an effect of planting date on seed production in Russian wildrye. For example, crested wheatgrass sown early in the spring will produce seed the same year. By contrast, spring-planted Russian wildrye does not produce seed until the next year. Fall plantings do not produce a seed crop until the second growing season after establishment. Certain developmental stages must apparently be reached in the fall for culm production to occur the following year. For ease of establishment, however, early-fall planting is preferable to spring planting. Therefore, a series of plantings were made throughout the growing season to determine: (1) how late Russian wildrye can be planted and still produce seed the following year and (2) effects, if any, of planting date on seed production in succeeding years.

The test, in a 4-replicate, randomized-block design, established at Mandan, North Dakota, in 1957, consisted of plantings at approximately 2-week intervals from May 23 to September 26. Soil at the experimental site was a sandy loam of moderate fertility and received 40 pounds of N per acre each fall. Syn, seed of Vinall, a variety bred for increased seed yields, was used. Sprinkler irrigation

Figure 1—Hand stencil duplicator, blank stencil, and copies of labels made with the duplicator.