A SELF-PROPELLED plot harvester to mechanize forage plot harvesting has been developed. This machine cuts and elevates forage with a flail type harvesting head powered by a 25-horsepower V4 air-cooled engine similar to that described by Paterson and Browning. The harvester uses the same steering and wheel arrangement as is commonly used on a self-propelled combine; that is, all four wheels are behind the three-foot-wide cutting mechanism. The ground wheels do not pass over uncut forage; therefore, this machine is also used to remove cross alleys and border plots prior to harvesting research plots. Most of the weight is carried by the 6.70 x 15 tires of the drive wheels thereby providing good traction and flotation. The turning radius is 9½ feet and could be reduced by braking one of the individual drive wheels.

The shorter than standard flail type chopper and bearings were ordered from L. H. Schultz Mfg. The chopper can be hydraulically adjusted to cut between 1 and 12 inches. The chopper is driven through an over-center clutch attached to one end of the drive shaft. V-belts on the other end of the drive shaft power the chopper.

Fig. 1. Plot harvester cuts and bags forage without passing over uncut material.

Fig. 2. Top and side schematic drawings of forage plot harvester.

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