

REPLACEMENT POINTS FOR TREE PLANTING MACHINE

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The Virginia Division of Forestry was having difficulty extending the life of a vital part of their tree planters--the point. One solution was to treat the steel points with hard surfacing welding rod. This helped, but increased the cost. Then iron castings were tried and appear to be satisfactory (fig. 1). A check on use records for last winter indicates that the cast iron points were still usable after planting sixty to eighty thousand seedlings in typical Piedmont Virginia soils. The Division has been working with cast iron points of one type or another for over 5 years. The foundry handling the job for the Division is located at Waynesboro, Virginia. The approximate cost per point is \$1. These are for Lowther type planters.



Figure 1.--Steel and cast iron points shown by Tom Turner, Nursery Superintendent.