

NEW STRAPPING MACHINE AT BEAUREGARD NURSERY

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During the last shipping season, the Beauregard Nursery used a new type of strapping machine (fig. 1). It proved to be better than the old hand model (Signode ASC-3820) since it was much faster, required less effort, and tied without using a seal.

The new tool, a Signode pneumatic model VFD, tightens and welds using air pressure. A reverse pressure on a sealed joint will release it, making seedling removal from the bale convenient.

The strapping used is a plastic material called

"Dymax." It is flexible and strong and welds readily making a good bonded joint. The specifications are 500-pound strength, $7/16$ -inch width, and 3,000 feet per 44-pound coil.

Using this tool the nursery strapped over 10 million seedlings and found the method satisfactory. The machine performed well and replacement of cutting knives was the only maintenance.

Such a strapping system requires a strapper, a pressure regulator filter-lubricator, air compressor, and the plastic strapping.



Figure 1.—Baled seedlings.

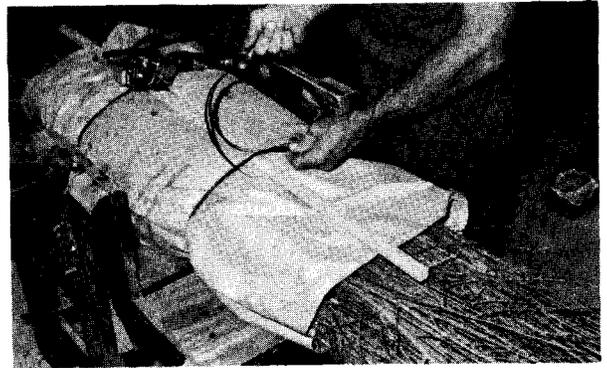


Figure 2.—Joining the plastic strapping.