

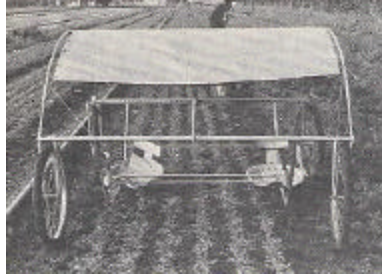
## SIMPLE WEEDING CART INCREASES HAND-WEEDING EFFICIENCY

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Nurserymen, at some point in each growing season, have always had to resort to some hand weeding regardless of their chemical herbicide schedule. This is especially true in rising 1-0 seedbeds where frequent control of weeds is essential to insure good seedling survival.

At the New York State Saratoga Tree Nursery, interest has existed for some time in a device that would increase the speed and/or efficiency of hand weeding. This device had to meet three criteria. It had to propel one or more people along a seedbed in a comfortable position, providing easy access to the seedbed area; it had to be lightweight and mobile enough to be controlled by the weeder; and it had to be inexpensive.

During the summer of 1976, a weeding cart was designed that met all three criteria as well as provided several unplanned features. Constructed at the nursery by C. Palmateer, the cart is composed of four 27-inch bicycle wheels, two tree-planter seats, and an old skinner irrigation pipe (figure 1). Being quite light in weight because of its tubular construction, the weeding cart is propelled and steered by two occupants. Propelling themselves backward by pushing with their feet, the weeders are easily able to weed the entire 4-foot-wide seedbed as well as the wheel path area.



**Figure 1.**—*Alignment and positioning of the weeding cart along the bed.*



**Figure 2.**—*Cart being used on beds of woody shrubs. Note the freedom of movement and accessibility.*

Although actual figures are not available, those using this device feel that in moderate to heavily weed-infested beds this cart enables them to do a better job at a somewhat faster pace than the usual kneeling position allows. Decreased time on lightly weeded areas is questionable.

In addition to the features just mentioned, the cart provides good protection from the sun by reducing late afternoon fatigue on hot days. Also, a large detachable box can be provided into which pulled weeds can be thrown, thus removing them from the field.

After making some slight adjustments on the prototype model, two more were constructed. All three were used extensively during the months of July and August 1976.

If plans are desired, they may be obtained by writing the authors.

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