

SAFETY MODIFICATION FOR LOWTHER PLANTING MACHINE

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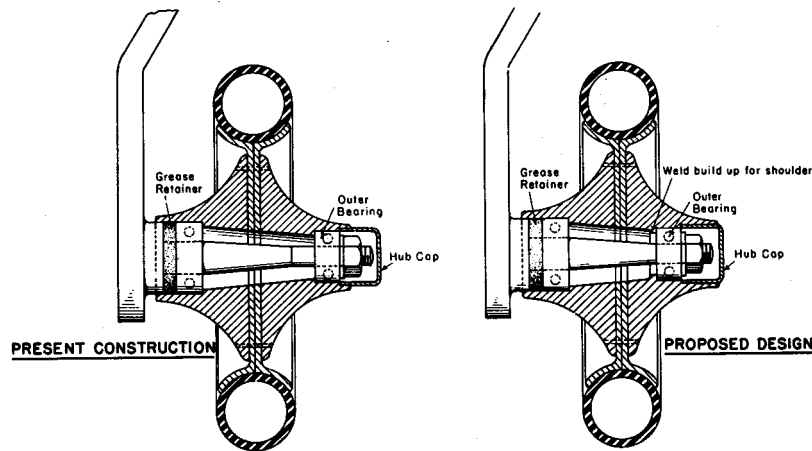
(Editor's note: The following article is taken from a work improvement suggestion sent to the Chiefs office, USFS, from the field,)

The use of very small planting stock this year has pointed up the hazard of the planter's hand being caught by the packing wheels, which can result in a broken arm or at least a lacerated hand and/or arm unless the following safety measure is adopted.

The packing wheels are set very close together, so close that the hub caps are no more than an inch apart. This distance is too close to permit the planter's arm to pass between them. After reviewing this situation, which was brought to my attention by William G. Bevis, Forestry Aide, the problem was discussed with Charles H. Keys, automotive mechanic, who suggested this recommended alteration.

It was considered necessary to widen the space between the hub caps so that a man's arm could pass between them in case his hand was caught by the packing wheels. With the hub caps spaced farther apart the planter could permit his hand to pass through the wheels and pull it out after it was released. Keys suggested that the outer bearing be recessed an additional inch on each wheel, the axles shortened proportionately, and the hub caps threaded into the hub an additional inch.

This was done, as shown on the attached sketch, at a cost of 3 hours mechanic's time, and \$5.00 machine shop work. This changed position of the bearings does not change the working positions of the wheels and has worked very satisfactorily.



SAFETY RECOMMENDATION FOR LOWTHER TREE PLANTING MACHINE