

TRANSPLANTER CAT  
Archie Hakala<sup>1/</sup>

This Cletrac crawler cat was modified at a Soil and Water Nursery years ago for the purpose of having a positive traction power source that would travel at a very slow, constant speed, over loose soils with no slippage or spin-outs.

We have no reliable record, but the estimated vintage of this Cletrac is 1931. The tread was modified to a 60" width to fit the standard tree beds. The regular frame was lengthened enough to accommodate a four speed transmission in front in tandem, with the regular cat transmission for extra gear reduction. This gives a wide selection of gear combinations for many speeds. The regular clutch control rod had to be extended to leave the clutch in front of the front transmission.

With both transmissions in low, the ground speed is 600 ft. per hour with an engine speed of 400 R.P.M. This enables the transplanting crew to keep up placing trees in the 5 single row celery transplanters which are mounted in a shop-made trailer-type machine.

It would be almost impossible to make this modification on a wheel tractor. Also a wheel tractor equipped with a hydro-static transmission has the tendency to vary speeds with some of the difficult conditions involved in transplanting.

---

1/ Badoura Nursery Superintendent, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources