

A SIMPLE TRANSPLANTING BOARD

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Though it may seem late to make any basic changes in a tool as simple as a transplanting board, we believe we have a change worth reporting. Instead of holding seedlings in place with a locking bar, as in the Yale transplant board, we use one rubber clip to hold each seedling.

The board is simply constructed of a strip of 3/4-inch Douglas-fir 2 1/2 inches wide, to which a strip of 1/8-inch rubber (the weight used in truck tire inner tubes) 2 1/2 inches wide is stapled so as to leave double pleats about 1 1/4 inches high at the intervals at which seedlings are to be set. We use 5-foot-long boards, with seedling holders at 2-inch intervals. Staples are applied with a stapling gun on both sides of the double pleats and at the bottom of the pocket between them. Thickness of rubber, depth of pleats, and distance between them may be varied according to size of seedlings and spacing required.

The board may or may not have handles. A segment of the board, in process of construction, is shown in figure 1.

To load the board, thrust seedlings into the pockets formed by the double pleats; the root collars must be carefully aligned along the lower edge of the board. The board is set at the edge of a ditch made by spade or special transplant ditcher. After the soil is packed around the roots, release the planted seedlings by rolling the board back away from them.

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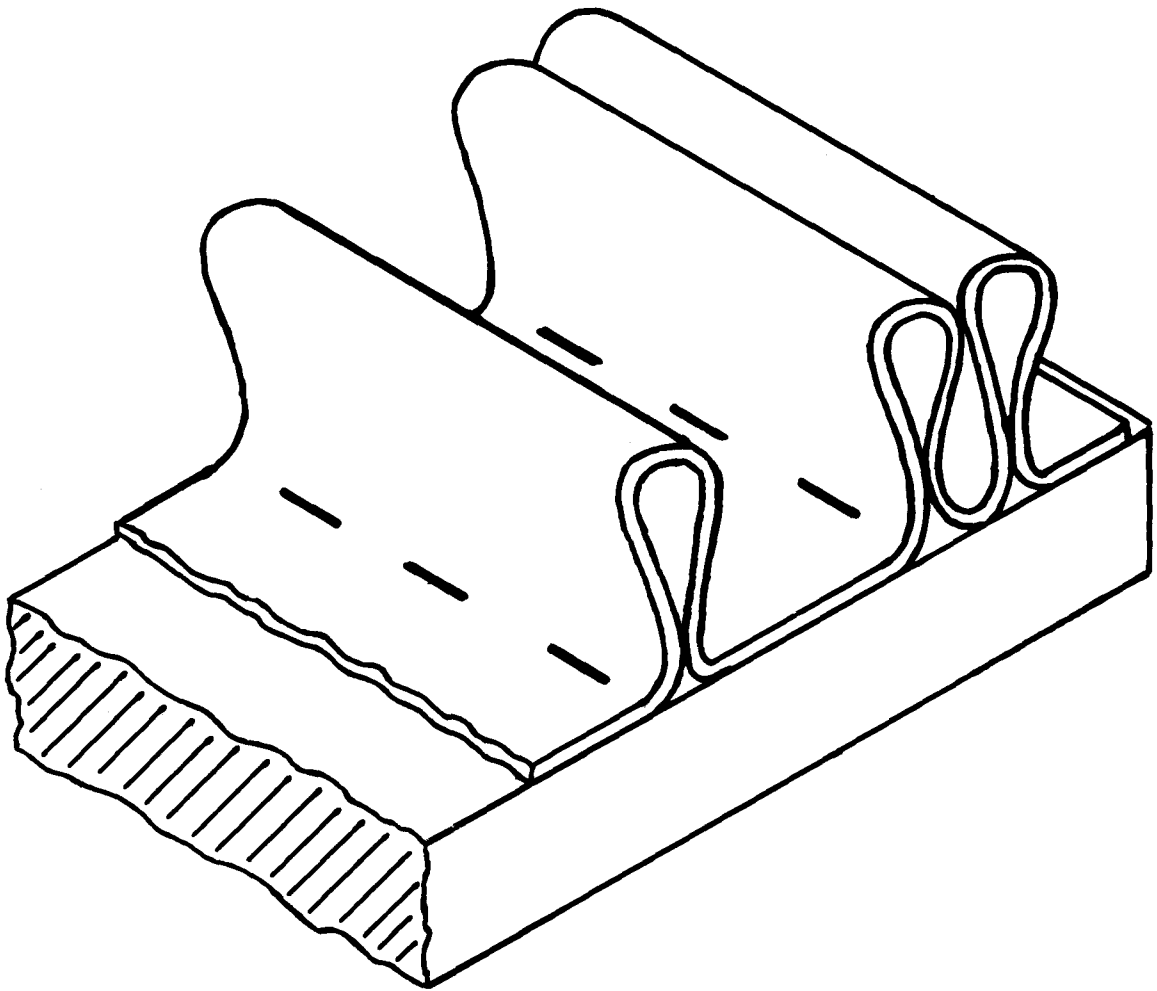


Figure 1.--A simple transplanting board.