

A HANDY, INEXPENSIVE PLANTING TABLE FOR SMALL SEED LOTS

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It seems late to make any basic changes in a tool as simple as a seed planting board; however, to change a seed planting board into a seed planting table is worth reporting.

There is a special need for precision planting where small lots of progeny test seedlings are to be grown to obtain uniformity in seedling size. There are several types of seeding troughs or planting boards; all require much stooping over and/or kneeling while sowing seeds. A planting table was designed to increase efficiency and reduce the labor of sowing multiple small lots.

Figure 1 shows the physical aspects of the planting table. The table is simply constructed of:

- 3—2' x 4'4" x ?" plywood pieces
- 78—3' sections PVC poly lawnpipe (½" diam.)
- 4—1" x 2" x 3' boards
- 2—1" x 2" x 4'4" boards

The number of holes (or pipes) to be used depends on the desired seedling density. In figure 1, the spacing is 4-by-4 inches, or approximately 9 per square foot. This spacing can be used for longleaf pine seedlots to grow seedlings for progeny testing. For slash and loblolly pine, a spacing of 2-by-4 inches is desirable. This can be obtained by doubling the number of holes and pipes. This

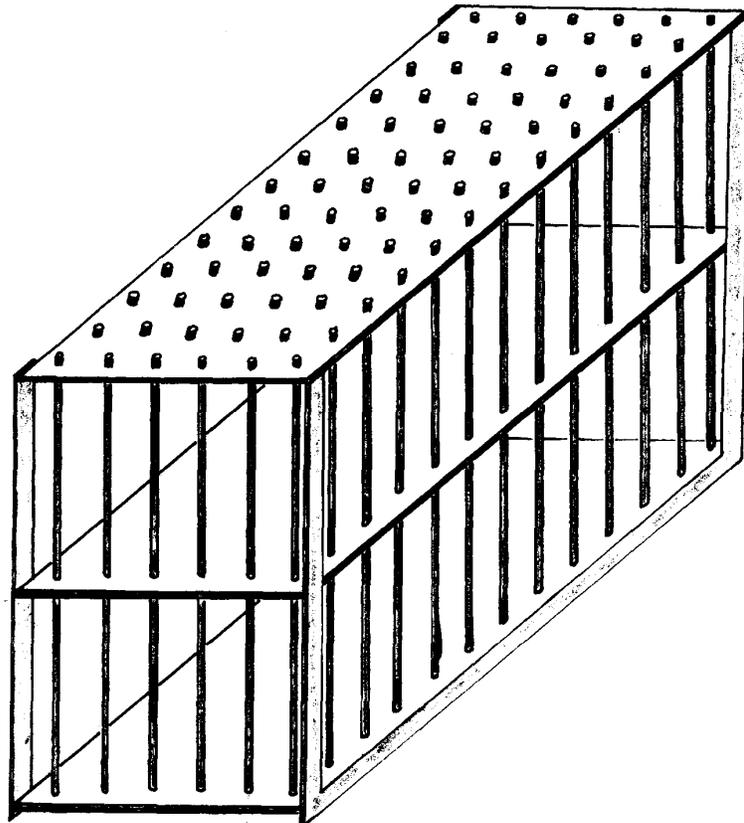


Figure 1.—Detailed sketch of planting table.

could be easily converted to 4-by-4 inch spacing by simply putting tape over every other row of holes:

Under certain conditions the soil can clog the bottom of the pipes and keep the seed from falling on the nursery bed. The pipes can be installed in such a way that the lower end will not touch the surface of the bed.

The table is very light and should not weigh more than 40 pounds. Also, having a worker on each side not only speeds up the seed planting but also facilitates moving the table to the next

2 feet of the nursery bed (Fig. 2). The only drawback is that you have to pay close attention so that no holes are skipped or that not more than one seed is dropped in one hole.

A roller can be used to pack the seed down directly after the planting of the seed. In general we feel that the planting table speeds up the planting procedure considerably and without doubt reduces fatigue.



Figure 2.—*Planting table in use in a nursery bed.*