

AGITATOR TYPE SAWDUST SPREADER FOR USE ON DUMP TRUCKS

S. P. DARBY

Chief of Reforestation, Georgia Forestry Commission  
Macon, Georgia

The Georgia Forestry Commission's nurseries use considerable quantities of sawdust as a soil improver or conditioner, but getting this sawdust applied evenly over the area has been a great problem. At first we merely dumped the sawdust in piles directly upon the area and then scattered them by hand. However, this was not satisfactory because it required too much hand labor and, unless closely supervised, the spreading was sometimes uneven enough to cause yellow spots when the seed beds were established. We then tried spreading the sawdust with a manure spreader. This gave an even enough distribution but was costly because of the great amount of labor required to transfer the sawdust from the truck to the spreader.

A solution to the problem was found by devising a special tail gate for use on nursery dump trucks. It is so designed that it can be removed with a minimum of effort when the truck is needed for other work. With this attachment it is possible to load the truck in the woods, drive to the nursery and spread the sawdust to almost any desired depth. No hand labor is required other than adjusting the opening of the gate to control the rate or depth of spread.

The sawdust spreader shown herein was made in the Georgia Forestry Commission's Macon shop. Any good machine shop should be able to make a similar machine. Cost data were not complete at the writing of this article but it is believed to be around \$150. 00. Construction details are shown in Fig. 1 through 5.

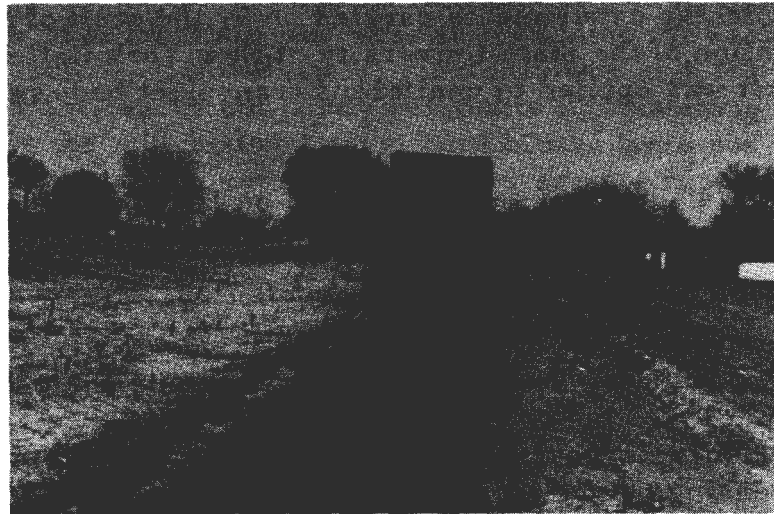


Figure 1. Nursery dump truck showing beginning of run to spread sawdust with agitator type tail gate attachment.

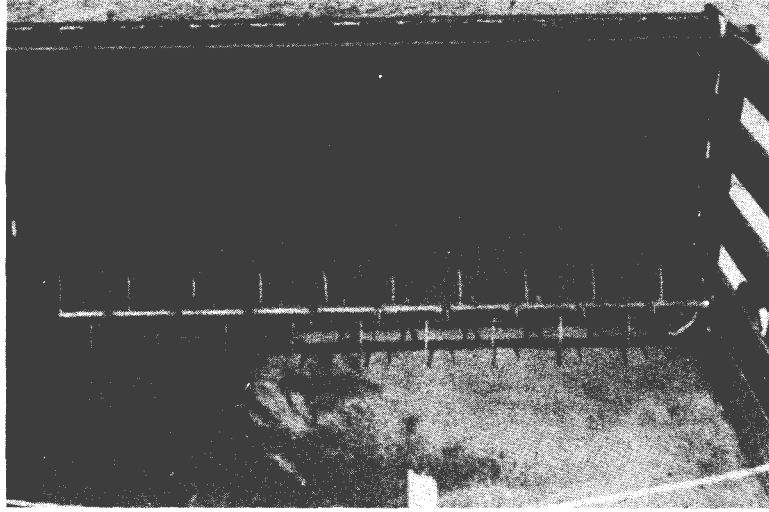


Figure 2. Front view of tail gate showing agitator mechanism.

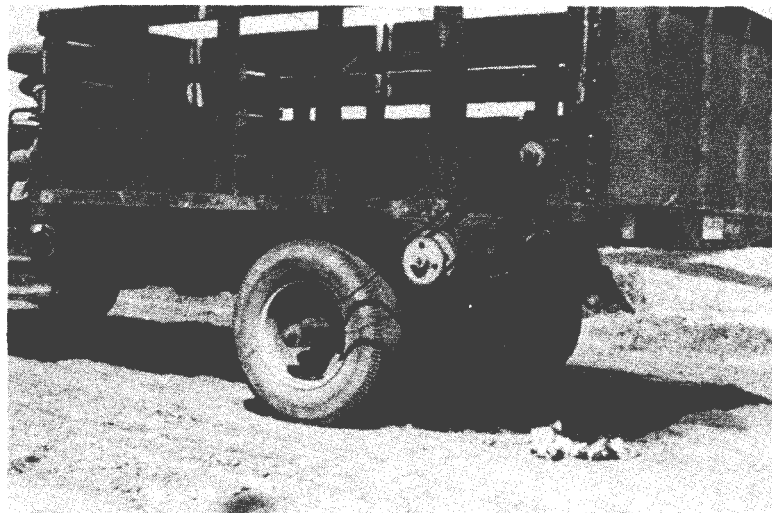


Figure 3. Side view of sawdust spreading attachment showing tail gate, agitator drive mechanism and adjustment crank for control of spread.

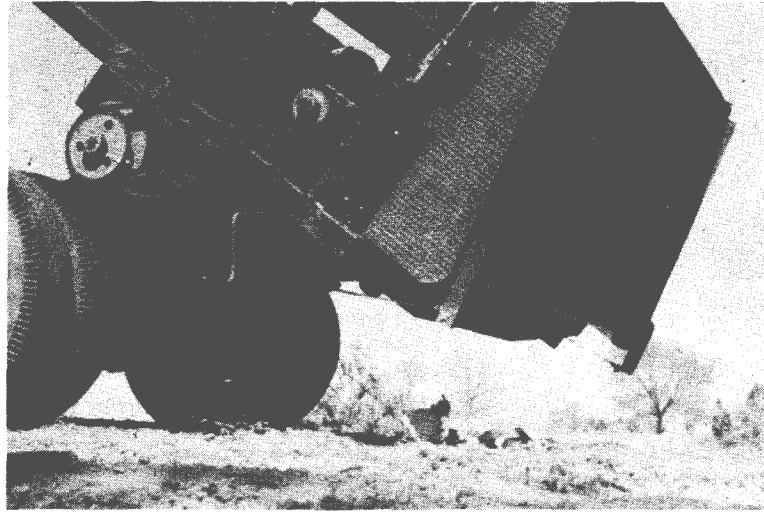


Figure 4. Side view of tail gate, showing cables used to control width of gate opening.

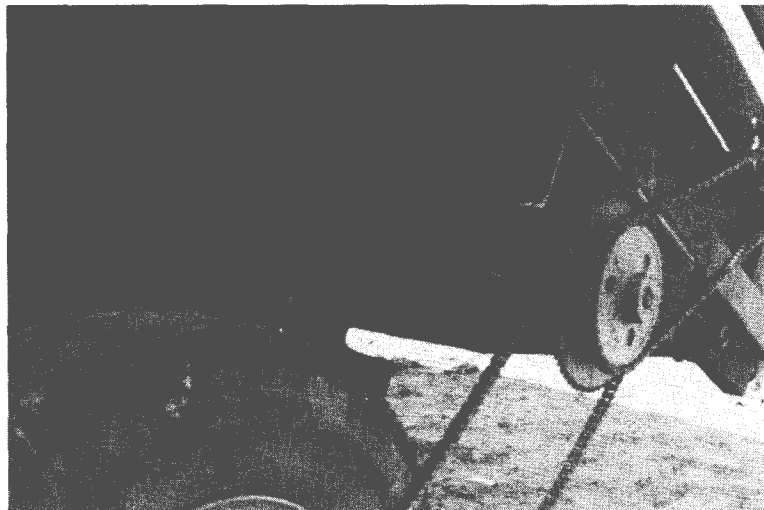


Figure 5. Side view of dump body showing installation of agitator drive mechanism.