

## APPENDIX A: SOURCE OF GRASS SEEDING EQUIPMENT

### Truax grass drill - 10 ft

Manufactured by Truax Company, 3717 Vera Cruz Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55422, tel. (612)537-6639.

Available through DNR, c/o Jon Bergquist, Area Wildlife Manager, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Madison, WI 53711, Tel. (608)266-0208. Rental rates to non-DNR groups or individuals, \$15 per day. (Priority given to DNR projects). The Truax drill has a large seed box for the fluffy bluestems, Indiangrass and most forb seeds. The small seed box is similar to the small seed or legume box on small grain drills. Switchgrass is seeded through the small seed box.

### Zip Seeder and Tye Pasture Pleaser

Three Zip Seeders are available through the Chevron Chemical Corporation located at Baldwin, Antigo and Madison. One Tye seeder is expected in the spring of 1979. Contact R. F. Ludt, Chevron Chemical Co., 3701-A Junction Road, Madison, WI 53711, Tel. (608) 831-7918 to rent equipment. No charge for use of Zip Seeder. It is mounted on a 2 wheel trailer and is easily towed by car. Adapted only for no-till seeding of switchgrass or legumes.

### Small grain drills with legume or grass box

DNR has small grain drills assigned to Burlington, Plymouth, Pine Island and Horicon.

Contact local farmers or implement dealers for rental equipment. Custom operators will also sow switchgrass on prepared seed bed or the complete operation may be offered for contract. Small (grass or legume box) seed boxes on grain drills will not have recommended settings for different seeding rates of switchgrass. To calibrate grain drills for seeding switchgrass, follow these procedures:

1. Tape up all but 3 seed outlets.
2. Dismantle seed tubes from the 3 outlets and attach a small coffee can or plastic bag or container to catch the seed.
3. Put seed in the 3 compartments and drive machine over a marked 25 ft area. Weigh collected seed and multiply by 1000. Convert weight measure to pounds which is the seeding rate per acre. Repeat procedure 3 times and take average.
4. Set rate changer at a new setting and continue calibration as above until range of recommended seeding rates is established.
5. Type or prepare table of the results and glue or permanently attach the guide to the inside cover for future reference.

### Brillion Seeders

Two new (1979) Brillion seeders acquired by Southern District are stationed at Pine Island and Horicon. Rental units are not generally available through implement dealers according to the manufacturer. Switchgrass, clean big bluestem and Indiangrass can be seeded with a Brillion seeder.

### Hand- or Machine-Operated Cyclone Seeders

Hand-cranked cyclone seeders work very satisfactorily for seeding switchgrass. Precise seeding rates are difficult to obtain because the operator must adjust the flow of seeds from the seeder and the width of the seed distribution to cranking speed and walking speed. Calibration is accomplished securely attaching a plastic bag over the outlet, covering a measured distance of 100 ft while cranking uniformly. Quantity of seed collected is multiplied by the fraction of an acre covered to get the seeding rate in pounds per acre. The procedure is repeated with necessary adjustments to get the desired seeding rate. Rental sources of machine-powered cyclone seeders is not known. Hand-operated seeders can be purchased through local grain elevators, coops or agricultural supply houses at approximately \$15-20. Clean big bluestem or Indiangrass can also be seeded with a cyclone seeder but with less reliability on seeding rates.