

SIMPLE TOOL FOR PLANTING ACORNS

William R. Beaufait

Delta Research Center
Southern Forest Experiment Station, U. S. F. S.
Stoneville, Mississippi

A handy, inexpensive tool for planting acorns has been developed at the Delta Research Center of the Southern Forest Experiment Station and used successfully in experimental plantings. One of its merits is that it ensures a planting hole of exactly the desired depth.

Several types of footings can be attached to the same basic handle (fig. 1). When more than one acorn is to be planted per spot, the appropriate number of rods are welded or screwed into position. The 3- by 5-inch foot plate may be detached from the handle and replaced by other plates that carry rods sized for different species. For example, a single 1- by 2-inch rod serves for Nuttall or overcup oak acorns; 1/2- by 1-inch multiple rods are appropriate for cherrybark or willow oak.

After the litter is scuffed away to expose mineral soil, the tool is pressed into the ground by foot, and the acorns dropped into the holes and covered by kicking in the side of the opening.

Under certain moisture conditions, heavy clays may stick to the rods. Then, however, planting by any technique is difficult.

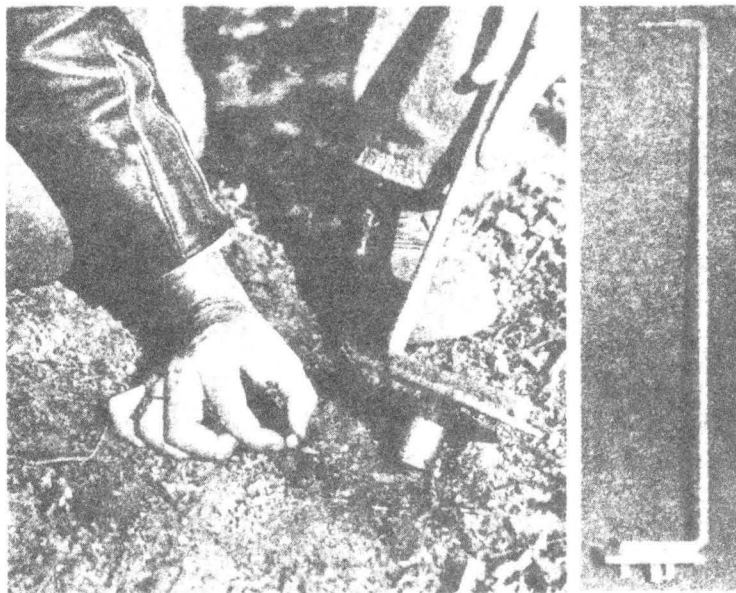


Figure 1. Tool for planting acorns; right, with multiple rods.