

R. S. THOMAS.

Cotton Planter.

No 2,205.

Patented July 30, 1841.

Fig. 1.

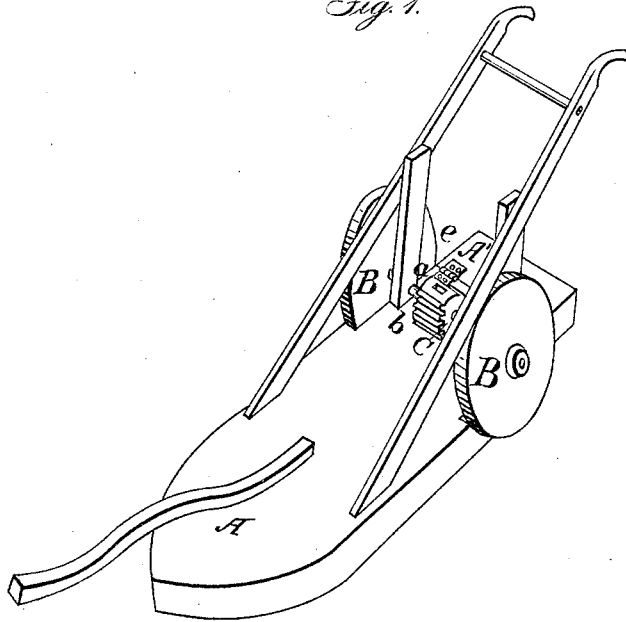


Fig. 2.

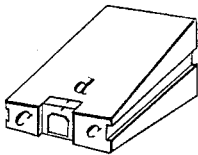
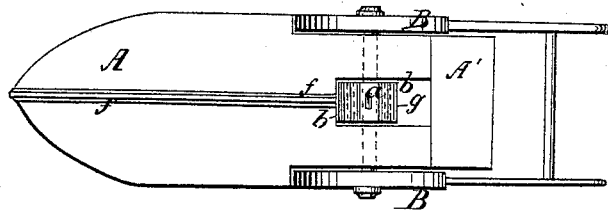


Fig. 3.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

R. S. THOMAS, OF BENNETTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA.

IMPROVEMENT IN MACHINES FOR PLANTING COTTON-SEED.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 2,205, dated July 30, 1841.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, R. S. THOMAS, of Bennettsville, in the district of Marlborough and State of South Carolina, have invented certain Improvements in the Manner of Constructing a Seeding-Machine for the Purpose of Planting Cotton-Seed; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my machine, the hopper being removed for the purpose of exhibiting the other parts the more distinctly. A is the bed or base of the machine, the lower side of which has its bearing on the ground. The wheels B may be about a foot in diameter, extending down below the under side of A to the distance of an inch and a half or two inches only, so as to insure their revolution and that of the axis upon which they are fastened. C is the planting-roller, affixed to the axle of the wheels B B. This roller may be about three or four inches in diameter and the same in length. On its periphery it is provided alternately with ridges or teeth and with holes for the reception and the dropping of the seed. In the planting of cotton-seed its perpetual agitation is absolutely necessary to the passing of the seeds into the excavations prepared to receive them in the planting-cylinder, as the rubbing them with clay or other means adopted to prevent the entangling of their fibers is not alone sufficient to cause them to descend with readiness into the excavations of the roller. *a* is one of the excavations on the roller C for the reception of the seed. These may be three-fourths of an inch in diameter and half an inch deep, more or less, and there may be three or four such on the face of the roller. *b* are the ridges formed along the roller, between the excavations, for the purpose of agitating the seed. These ridges may be converted into points, if preferred; but this is not necessary.

Fig. 2 represents the hopper inverted. The bottom *c c*, which rests upon the planting-roller, has a piece of leather or other elastic material, *d*, extended across it, which leather has an opening through it for the passage of the seed onto the roller. The edges of the leather surrounding the hole rest upon the planting-roller, and from its elasticity it adapts

itself perfectly to said roller and allows it to turn smoothly. The rear plate, A', of the bed is in a separate piece from the fore part, and is hinged to it, as shown at *e*. This rear part serves effectually to cover the seed with earth, and, being hinged, it moves out of the way of stones or of other resisting substances.

Fig. 3 is a view of the under side of the machine. *ff* is a keel or ridged piece, which extends along from the fore end to the opening for the planting-roller, and this serves to open a furrow much more perfectly than can be done by a tooth or colter, and tends also to keep the machine in a direct course. The piece A of the bed is cut away at *g* behind the roller, to afford an opportunity for the collection by it of the loose earth which it is to deposit upon the seed.

Having thus fully described the nature of my cotton-planting machine and explained the operation of the same, what I claim therein as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The manner of constructing the seeding-roller with alternate ridges or points and excavations for the reception of the seed to be planted, the ridges or points operating as agitators to keep the seed in motion and cause it to fall into the excavations.

2. I am aware that agitators have been frequently used within a hopper in seeding-machines; but these have been constructed in a manner much more complex than that employed by me, which method is perfectly effective and simple, not requiring any additional moving parts. I claim the manner of forming the bed piece in two parts, the rear part, A', being hinged to the forward portion in the manner described, and for the purpose of covering the seed that has been planted, and this I claim in combination with the ridge or keel piece for forming and preparing the furrow, said keel-piece extending along the bottom of the bed-piece.

3. The forming the bearing of the hopper upon the planting-roller by means of a piece of leather or other elastic material, in the manner set forth.

R. S. THOMAS.

Witnesses:

THOS. P. JONES,
B. K. MORSELL.