

In this experiment a range of seed spacings drilled to a stand were compared with equivalent plant populations obtained by hand singling. The performance of machine harvesting was to be compared over this range of plant populations and from the regular and irregular plant distributions obtained from hand singling and drilling to a stand respectively. The source and level of machine harvesting losses were also to be compared.

The treatments were:-

1. Drilled to a stand at 6in. spacing
2. " " " " " 7.5in. "
3. " " " " " 9.0in. "
4. " " " " " 12.0in. "
- 5.) Drilled at 1.5in. spacing and
- 6.) hand singled to give a regular plant
- 7.) distribution at population levels equivalent
- 8.) to those obtained from treatments 1-4.

The drilled to a stand treatments gave final plant populations of 37,000, 29,000, 24,600 and 19,500 from 6, 7.5, 9.0 and 12in. spacing respectively. Hand singling gave a regular plant distribution at equivalent plant population.

The abnormally wet autumn made harvesting difficult and resulted in erratic variability in the efficiency of machine harvesting. The experiment was therefore abandoned at harvest but it is proposed to continue with this experiment during 1975.