

B. Labels for plants and ears. This is another very useful item, first put in use, I believe, by L. C. Saboe (Ohio Agric. Expt. Sta.) when he was a student here. Sheets of tagboard, #6 or heavier weight, are perforated according to the size of tag desired. One useful size is from sheets that are 17" by 22", with 9 rows of perforations in the long dimension and 7 rows running in the other direction, making 80 tags per sheet which are 1 3/4" x 2 3/4".

For some uses in the field, the numbers can be stamped on the tags in the sheets in the laboratory. In barley we have used it for numbering plants from which pollen samples are being taken and on which records for other characters are being made. For each plant, two tags attached end-to-end and stamped with the same plant number are used. When heading starts, the first tag is placed around the plant at the 3rd or fourth internode and stapled in place so the plant number can be read and the second tag free to be removed later. The pollen sample (a whole or part of a head) is taken, the second tag removed, folded to enclose the head, stapled so as to hold the head tightly in place, and dropped in a jar of 70% alcohol. This system [sic] ensures that the pollen sample and plant will have the same number, and also it is no problem to determine which plants are still to be sampled. A larger tag could be used for corn. They are quicker to attach than string labels and also are easier to see on the plant.

Recently we have stapled a tag on the inside edge of the pollination bag before pollination. The record of the cross is written on this at the time of pollination, the tassel bag being placed over the ear after pollination. At harvest this tag is completed and transferred to the bar, nailed on with a "fine" lath nail.

Precautions: staples. The ordinary staples used in the hand stapling machine will rust in alcohol and obliterate numbers which contact them. Staples made of brass have no trouble, but they were not available last year. Aluminum ones are available and are almost as satisfactory.

ink: The stamping inks in some cases are not color fast in alcohol and must be tested. Some are not color fast in the field when subjected to rain and sun although they may be waterproof. This latter has been found to be true of the inks used in some of the wick pens when used for field stake labels.

C. R. Burnham