



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Series 3

Volume 4
Number 6 November-December, 1955

Article 9

11-1955

Trapping yards for kangaroos

C. D. Gooding

L. A. Harrison

Follow this and additional works at: https://library.dpird.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture3

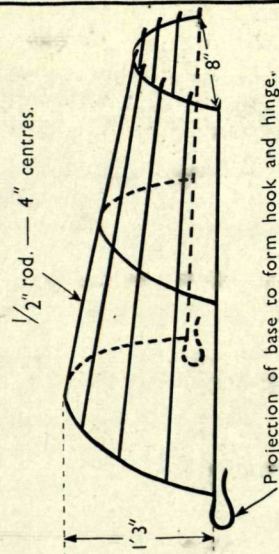
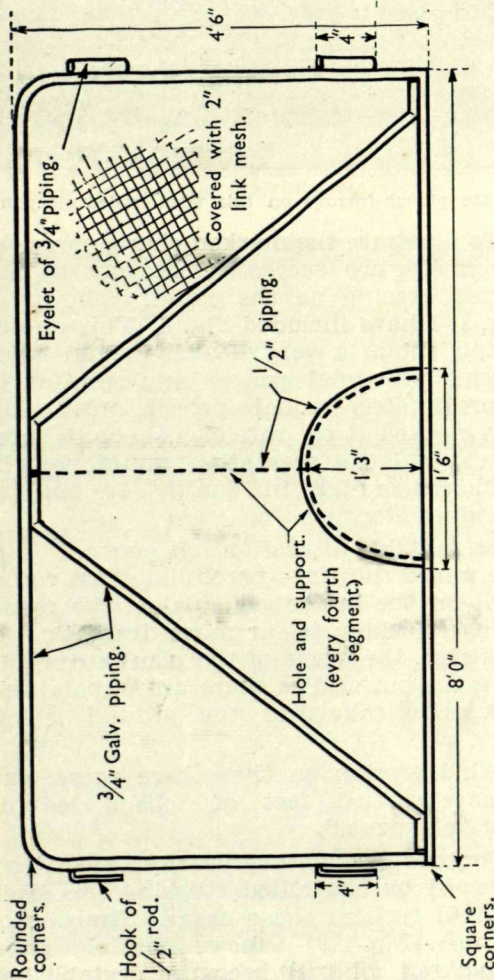
Recommended Citation

Gooding, C. D. and Harrison, L. A. (1955) "Trapping yards for kangaroos," *Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Series 3*: Vol. 4: No. 6, Article 9.

Available at: https://library.dpird.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture3/vol4/iss6/9

This article is brought to you for free and open access by the Agriculture at Digital Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Series 3 by an authorized administrator of Digital Library. For more information, please contact library@dpird.wa.gov.au.

PORTABLE WALLABY TRAPPING SEGMENTS



Segment viewed end-on.

2" gap to allow funnel to lift upwards as wallaby enters.

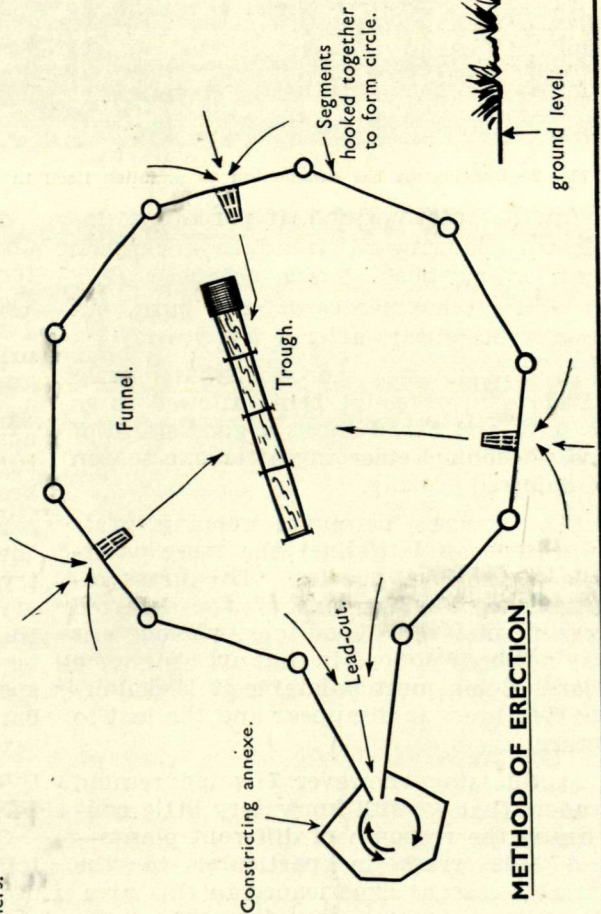
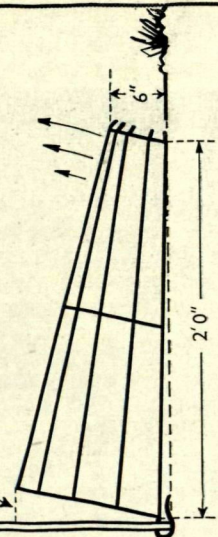




Fig. 1.—Erecting the original trapping yard at a dam on Quanbun Station

TRAPPING YARDS FOR KANGAROOS

By C. D. GOODING, Vermin Control Research Officer and L. A. HARRISON,
Vermin Research Technician

MARKED increases in the kangaroo and wallaby populations over large sections of Western Australia's pastoral areas have produced many inquiries for some type of trapping yard which would give good results if erected at wells and other water supplies.

It is not claimed that the traps described in this article are new in principle as they are merely a modification of the old type of water trap which has been used for catching rabbits probably ever since that pestilential rodent appeared in plague form.

The traps which are pictured and described here were primarily designed for the capture of sandy wallabies, in the Kimberleys, for purposes of research. These wallabies only reach a stature of between 2 and 3ft., and weigh on the average about 20 to 25 lb. If the same type of trap is to be used for the larger kangaroo species such as the euro (biggada)

or marloo (red kangaroo), then appropriate alterations will have to be made in the specifications. The sizes given proved entirely satisfactory for the sandy wallaby which constitutes a serious problem in the Kimberleys.

The essentials for successful trapping are:—

- (1) Thirsty animals (this means that traps are most effective during hot weather).
- (2) A supply of water which can be easily fenced off.
- (3) A strong enclosure.

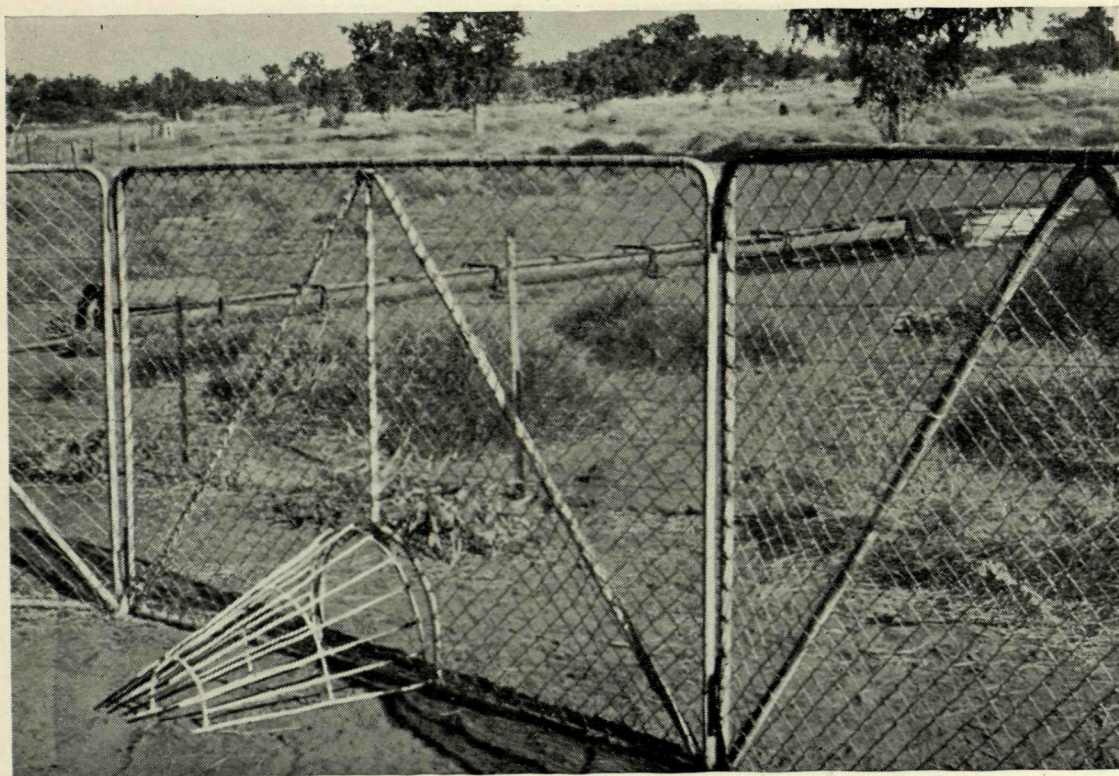


Fig. 2.—Some of the portable segments in position at Liveringa Station, West Kimberley

- (4) Funnels leading into this enclosure which permit of fairly easy entry but which prevent exit from the yard.

The enclosure when erected around the water must be left open to stock during the day time and then closed off again at night-fall. The presence of other water supplies at the trapping site will prevent successful trapping, and these must either be drained or covered each evening and opened again next morning.

DESCRIPTION

The possibilities of this type of trapping were first recognised when a temporary structure was erected at Quanbun Station, in the Derby hinterland, to obtain animals for experimental purposes. This was a makeshift structure made from steel standards, a roll of link mesh and two improvised funnels. This trap served its

purpose and showed how the design could be further improved.

Later, a set of portable frames were made. These consisted of gate-like segments made from $\frac{3}{4}$ in. piping and covered with 2 in. link mesh. The segments were fitted with hooks or hinges which fitted into "eyes," which consisted of short lengths of $\frac{3}{4}$ in. piping, welded to the ends of the frames to permit rapid assembly and dismantling. Some of the segments had semi-circular openings cut in the centre of the lower portions, and these holes were framed with $\frac{1}{2}$ in. piping. Funnels made from $\frac{1}{2}$ in. mild steel rod were fitted on the inner side of the hole (see specifications).

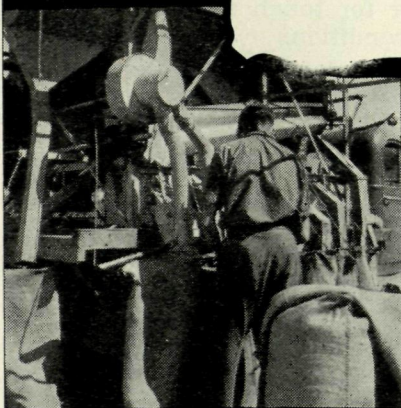
The great advantage of the improved type of enclosure is the readily portable nature of the component parts and the ease of erection at a new site. From the economic angle, this is of utmost importance as labour costs play an important part in the economics of pest control.



Trade Mark



Trade Mark



BAYER PHARMA PTY. LTD.
SYDNEY

Distributed by:

Dalgetys

Ceresan Trade Mark
BAYER'S Brand of DRY SEED PICKLE
IS BEST!

**AGRICULTURAL
SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY**

Agricultural Scientific Authority Mr. W. P. Cass Smith in the West Australian Journal of Agriculture gives advice to farmers on dry pickling wheat, oats and barley.

WHEAT • OATS • BARLEY

Write for *FREE* information to:

BAYER PHARMA PTY. LTD.
56 Young Street, SYDNEY

When your wheat grader calls . . .
DEMAND

'CERESAN'
BAYER'S Brand of DRY SEED PICKLE

FOR BEST GERMINATION . . .

FOR BEST DISEASE CONTROL

FOR BEST GRADE GRAIN . . .

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture, W.A.," when writing to advertisers

POWERFUL!



**SUNSHINE
MASSEY HARRIS**

55K

Of the Kerosene operated Tractors for the Australian farmer, nothing else can match the power, performance, and economy of the 55K. Dependability is really built into these fine Tractors.

The 55K gives you ample power for the biggest normal farm implements . . . power to work big areas quickly and thoroughly . . . reserve power for tough spots and bad conditions

Compare the type of transmission employed in the 55 Series Tractors—silent running, helical cut gears, mounted throughout on Timken Tapered Adjustable Roller bearings. The entire transmission including the final drive is supported on Timken bearings. Years of trouble free and silent operation are embodied in such a carefully designed and tested gear set up.

Advanced engineering features include:—Heavy-duty special kerosene engine with replaceable wet sleeves; full pressure oiling system; battery ignition with automatic spark control; voltage regulator; selective sliding and constant-mesh transmission; hydraulic velvet-ride seat; swinging drawbar; individual or coupled brakes; self-starter, lights, internal power take-off.

See your Sunshine Agent or write direct for full information NOW!



**H. V. MCKAY MASSEY HARRIS
PTY. LTD.**

Cnr. Murray & King Sts., Perth

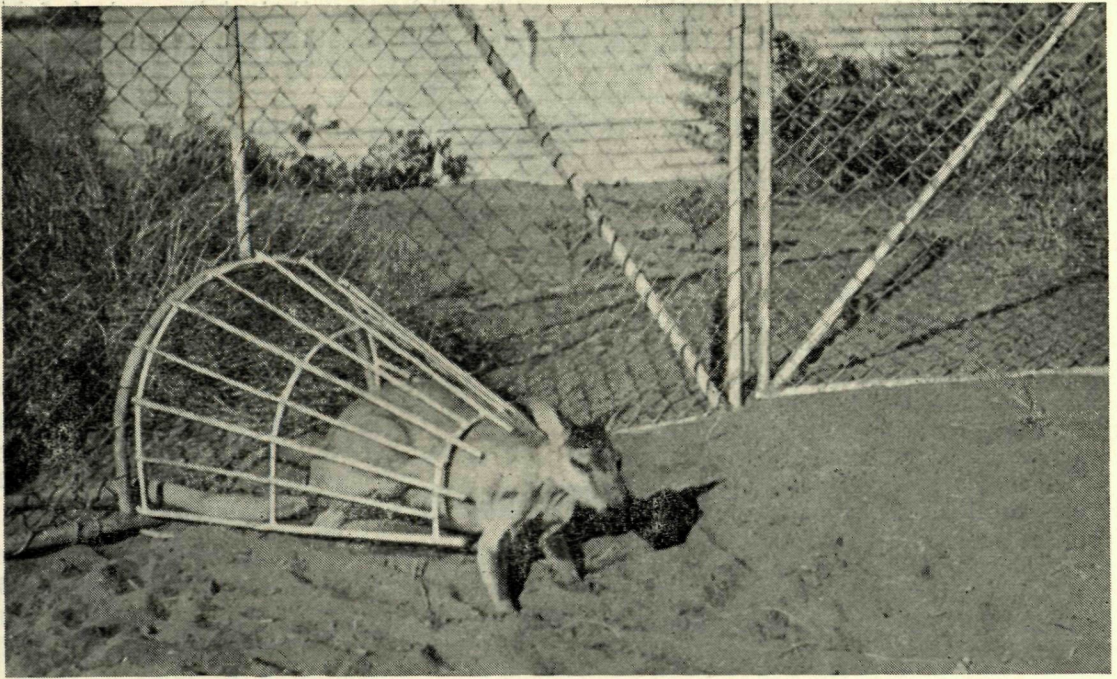


Fig. 3.—A wallaby entering through the funnel. Note how the inside end of the funnel has been raised from the ground. This photograph was taken at Montgomeries Bore, Liveringa Station

Another refinement which was added to the portable yard was the provision of a lead-out funnel, made from the frames, which permitted the wallabies to move out

of the main yard into a small crush pen. Once in this small enclosure, the wallabies cannot jump around nor injure themselves and can be destroyed without difficulty.

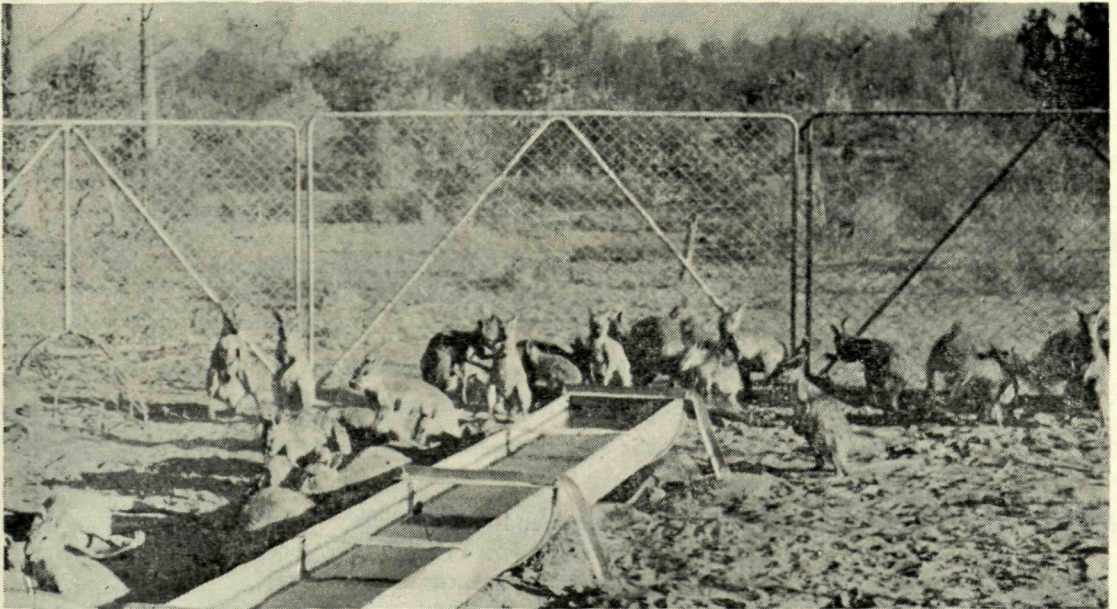


Fig. 4.—Part of one night's catch at Grant Range Bore, Liveringa Station

PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

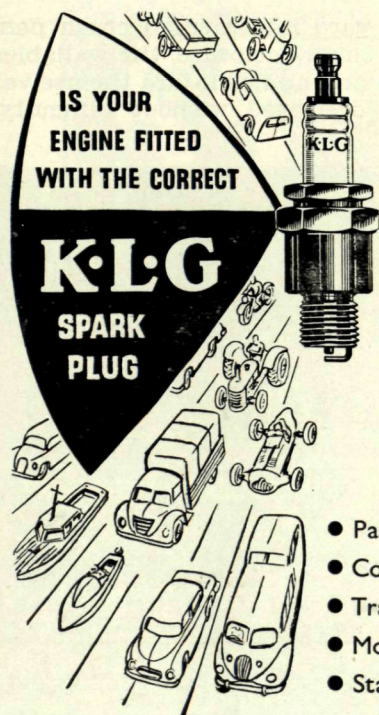
It will be realised that a fairly large expenditure of labour will be involved in opening up and closing of water supplies and this work is an important factor in successful trapping.

The time required to successfully eradicate the kangaroos visiting a mill, and the expense of equipping each mill with a water trap would be much greater than would be required to obtain similar results by water poisoning. Some indication of the time it takes to clean up a mill may be gained from these figures of catches obtained at Quanbun Station on successive days. On the first day 35 wallabies were caught and these were followed by catches of 30, 22, 2, 23, 19, 16 and 10, making a total of 157 spread over eight days. The fourth day's catch of only 2 animals was due to the presence of an exposed pool of water left under an adjacent trough. This was located and fully utilised by the wallabies.

It will be seen that at the end of eight days we were still catching about one-third of our initial take. Many of these were probably wallabies which habitually moved from mill to mill but possibly some would be animals which had been deterred from entering the funnels on previous nights and had moved to other mills and later returned to the original mill trough. This would suggest the necessity of trapping large numbers of mills simultaneously so as to pick up these wanderers.

It has been suggested that control by means of water traps would have special attraction for kangaroo shooters hunting for skins, as they would be assured of good catches at each mill.

In this connection however it should be remembered that the best trapping period would be during the summer months when skin prices are usually at a low level.



K.L.G.

RECOMMENDATION BOOK POST FREE FROM

S. SMITH & SONS (Australia) PTY. LTD.
Box 4911, G.P.O. Sydney

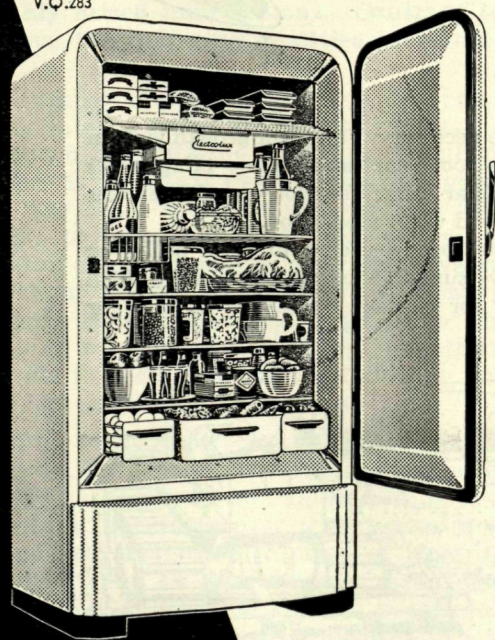
This Booklet contains the following valuable information for all motorists and engine users. K.L.G. recommendation for—

- Passenger Cars.
 - Commercial Vehicles.
 - Tractors and Rotary Hoes.
 - Motor Cycles.
 - Stationary Engines and Lawn-mowers.
 - Marine Engines.
 - Instructions for Cleaning Plugs.
 - Instructions for fitting and Gap Setting.
 - Heat Range and Conversion Chart.
 - Also available Racing Plug Booklet. Platinum Plug Brochure.
- For further technical inquiries write to the above address.

ever silent . . .
ever faithful . . .
ever in good taste

ELECTROLUX

V.Q.283



An Electrolux refrigerator is like a very special friend—it knows how to keep quiet, knows how to serve you without trouble and always its fine appearance compliments your own good taste.

Check these features:—

- Excels in hottest weather.
- Full across-top frozen storage.
- Freezing unit guaranteed for 5 years.
- 7 cu. ft. capacity.

£162/10/- (KEROSENE OPERATED)

(Freight extra)

See also the 3.1 cu. ft., £102/10/-; 1.7 cu. ft., £72 10/- (for kerosene or electric operation); 7 cu. ft. electric sealed unit, £154/10/-.

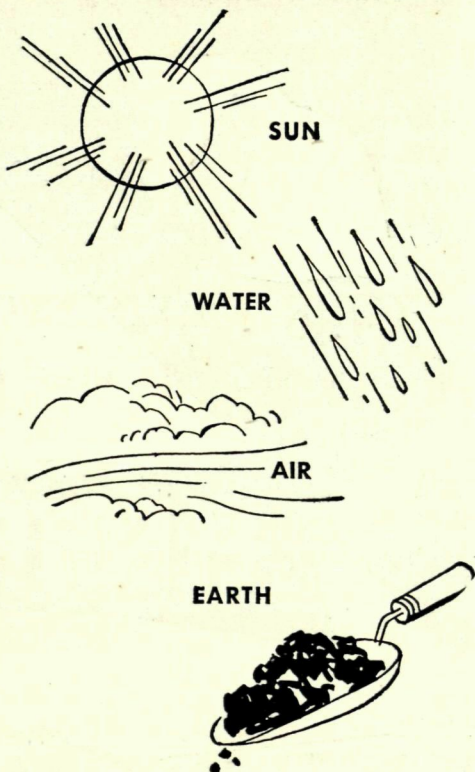
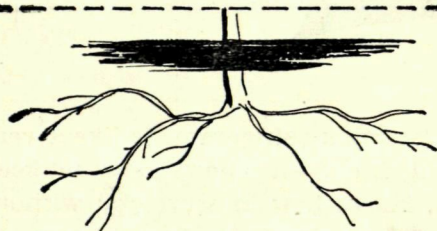
DISTRIBUTORS:

Dalgety AND COMPANY LIMITED
(Incorporated in England)

Electrolux—Available from Dalgety's or their Dealer in your District

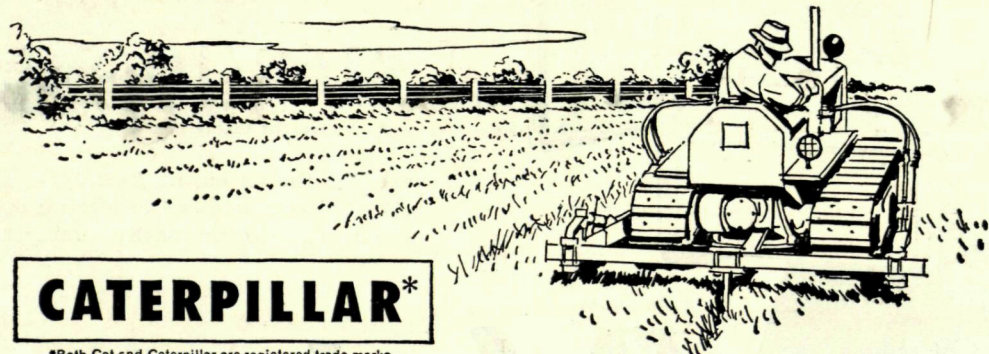


what makes crops GROW?



These and other sources of food and energy are necessary. Yet, plant growth is often retarded by tough or hard subsoil that resists root penetration. Deep tillage tools mounted directly on the tool bar of a Caterpillar Diesel Tractor can shatter this resistance and open the soil for better aeration and water absorption.

CAT* Diesel Tractors can make crop production more efficient, with pulled or direct-mounted implements. These tractors give sure traction for better work, high capacity for quicker work and fuel economy for cheaper work. See us now for information and proof!



CATERPILLAR*

*Both Cat and Caterpillar are registered trade marks

WIGMORES LIMITED

613-619 WELLINGTON ST. PERTH.....PHONE BA 2281

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture, W.A.," when writing to advertisers