The plants are placed in the glasshouse after grafting. Within 10 days most buds are swollen ready to shoot and within 20 days all buds that will shoot have done so. It is necessary to go through and cut off any suckers at 30 days. At 50 days the plants are moved into the shadehouse where they are potted into 250 mm buckets; any suckers are cut off at 60 days. The plants should be 300 to 450 mm high before dormancy and will grow very quickly when spring comes.

CONCLUSION

I find that by doing my grafting in summer the plants are ready for sale in early spring, which is the best time for selling plants. This means that the plants are ready for sale after 14 months and will sell very well at this stage. When they are grafted in winter, the understock are 12 months old when grafted and are ready for sale 4 months later. This is now 16 months and January (mid-summer) which is a quiet time for sales. Therefore, the plants won't sell quickly until the following spring — another 8 months. This gives an effective growing time of 24 months — almost twice that of summer grafting.

A SIMPLE METHOD FOR IN-GROUND PRODUCTION OF SEEDLINGS

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The method discussed here has been used successfully for growing vegetable and flower seedlings for many years. It could be used to grow a wide range of shrub, tree, and creeper plants. This method may be of particular interest to people who wish to grow large quantities of material.

The soil should be a light loam in texture, rich in the essential nutrients, and worked to a fine state by rotary hoeing. It should be sterilized with methyl bromide or some other method, be raked as evenly as possible and should be in a moist state.

The wooden drill-making implement (Figure 1) is pressed into the loose soil surface firmly and when removed will leave seven (7) drills approximately 10mm deep. The bed is now ready to plant.

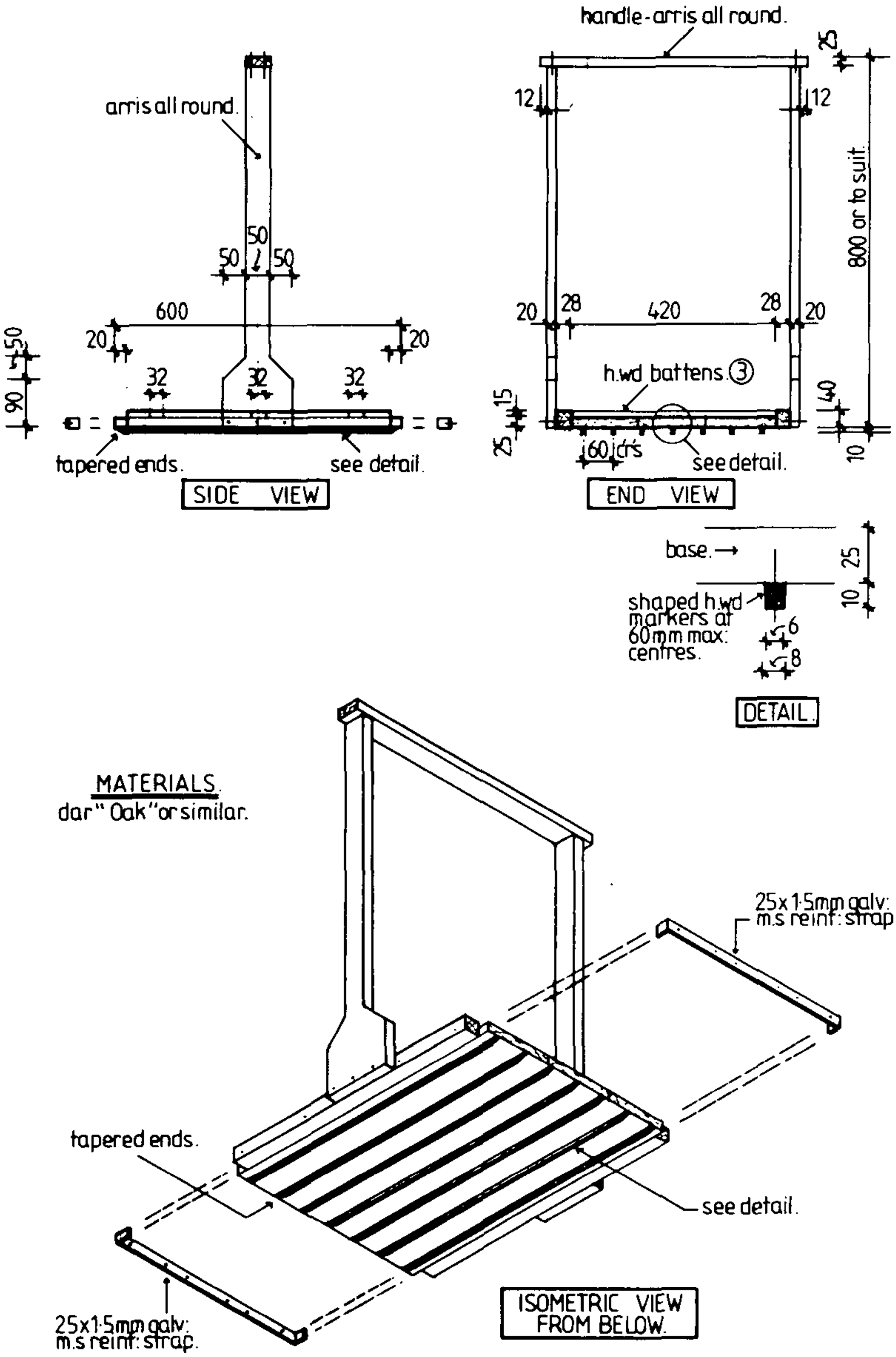

Figure 1. Diagram of drill-forming implement, the Northolme Nurseries Pty. Ltd. seed furrow presser.

Planting is done using the forefinger and thumb. The seeds are planted into the prepared drills as thick or thin as needed. When the planting is completed, a light covering of a moisture retentive material is sieved over the seeds. The thickness of the covering depends on the seed size, very small seeds need only the lightest covering while more covering is applied to large seeds, but only to the extent that they are just covered and no more.

Materials for sieving onto the seeds could range from vermiculite or peat moss to old sawdust or old horse manure. It must of course be sterilized.

The planted bed is watered with a spray of water fine enough that it will not move the seed when well wetted.

A pipe frame of ⅜ in. galvanised pipe covered with 50% shade cloth is then placed over the beds. This allows watering through the cover. The frame is removed one day after the seed has germinated to avoid etiolation.

A wide range of seed sizes can be planted into the 10 mm drill. Seed sizes range from the petunia seed, which can be compared with *Leptospermum* seed in size, to lupin seed which can be compared with *Cassia nodosa* in size. The important factor is in the rate of application of the material used to cover the seeds. In all cases the covering material needs only to cover the seeds and no more.

Advantages of this seed planting method are:—

(1) Unskilled staff can learn to plant quite easily.

(2) It is relatively easy to control plant thickness.

(3) Plant counting is easier when planted in rows.

(4) Root pruning, if necessary, is easily achieved by planting in rows.

Disadvantages of this seed planting method are: —

(1) Slow planting rate as compared to broadcasting.