(No Model.)

H. C. ODELL.

SEED POTATO CUTTER.

No. 523,750. Patented July 31, 1894.

Fig. 1.

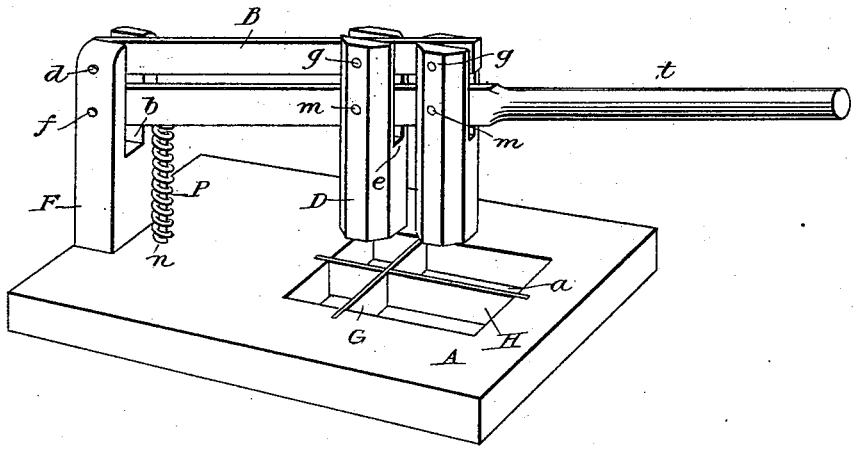


Fig. 2.

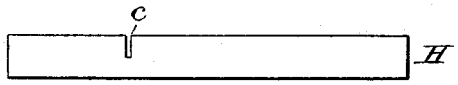
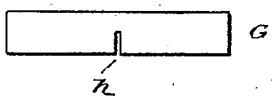


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY C. ODELL, OF FRANKLIN, IOWA.

SEED-POTATO CUTTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 523,750, dated July 31, 1894.

Application filed September 1, 1893. Serial No. 484,580. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY C. ODELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Franklin township, in the county of Cass and State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Seed-Potato Cutters; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to improvements in devices for cutting seed potatoes, and it consists in the peculiar construction and combination of the parts, that will be more fully set forth hereinafter and particularly pointed out in the claims.

The object of my invention is to provide a device, of simple construction, by the use of which, potatoes for seed can be easily and quickly cut into pieces of suitable size for planting. I attain these objects by the device illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1, is a perspective view of the device, and Figs. 2 and 3, side views of the knives.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

The base piece or plate A, and the upright F, secured thereto, constitutes the frame of the device. The upright F is provided with a slot *b*, into which extends the ends of the bar B, and lever C.

D and E are pushers, each of which is provided with a slot *e*, through which extends the bar B and lever C.

The bar D is pivoted to the upright F, by the pivot *d*, and to the pushers by the pivots *g g*.

The lever C has its free end formed into a handle *t*, and it is pivoted to the upright F, by the pivot *f*, and to the pushers by the two pivots *m m*.

P is a spiral spring, having its lower end resting on the base piece A, and its upper end against the under side of the lever C, it is held in position by the upright pin *n*, which is secured at its lower end to the base piece, the spring forces the lever C and the pushers attached thereto upward.

H and G are knives which cross each other, the knife H is provided with the slot *c*, for the reception of the knife G, and the knife G, is provided with the slot *h*, for the reception of the knife H, and by means of these slots the knives are joined together so that their edges are flush. The base piece A has the ends of the knives fixed therein, and it is provided with the slot *a*, within which is located the cutting portions of the knives.

The bar D, which is parallel with the lever C, is employed to help hold the pushers and to keep them, when in operation, in a perpendicular position, so that their lower ends will rest squarely on the potato, when it is forced downward upon the knives.

The operation of my device is as follows: If it is desired to cut the potato into four pieces, it is placed under the pusher D, and on the knives in such a position that its middle portion will rest over the point where the knives intersect each other, the handle *t*, of the lever C, is then seized by the hand and forced downward to such an extent that the pusher D comes in contact with the knives, thereby forcing the knives through the potato and dividing it into four parts, which parts will be pushed through the slot *a*, by the next potato when it is cut. If the potato is so small that it is only desired to divide it into two parts, it is placed on the knife H, under the pusher E, and the lever having the pusher E attached thereto is forced downward as above explained, thereby dividing the potato into two parts. If the potato is large so that it is desirable to have it cut into eight parts, it is first placed on the knife H, and halved, then each half is placed on the knives under the pusher D, and quartered.

It is evident from the foregoing explanation, that the pusher D is used only in connection with the knife H, and that the pusher D is employed in connection with both knives.

The knife H is made of such length, that a large potato can be placed thereon, under the pusher E, and cut, without coming in contact with the knife G. After the potato has been cut, the spring P forces the lever, and the pushers attached thereto, upward, thereby elevating the pushers sufficiently to permit a potato to be inserted under them upon the knives.

It is evident that the device can be operated

if the spring is omitted, or if the bar is omitted, or if both the spring and bar are omitted, but the operation thereof is greatly improved by the use of both the spring and bar.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The herein described seed potato cutter, consisting of the base piece A, having the slot *a*, the upright F, firmly secured to the base piece, the knives G and H, fixed in the base piece and having their cutting portions located within the slot, the operating lever C, pivoted to the upright, the bar B, pivoted to the upright, the pushers D and E, each pivoted to the lever and bar, and the spring P, which bears against the under side of the lever, all combined substantially as described.

2. The combination, in a seed potato cutter, substantially as described, of the base piece A, having the slot *a*, the upright F, secured to the base piece, the knives G and H, fixed in the base piece and having their cutting portions located within the slot, the bar B, pivoted to the upright, the lever C, pivoted to the upright, and the pushers D and E, each pivoted to the lever and bar.

3. The combination, in a seed potato cutter, of the knives, fixed in a suitable frame, the operating lever, pivoted to a suitable support, the bar pivoted to a suitable support, and the pusher D, located over the knives and pivoted to the lever and bar, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

HENRY C. ODELL.

Witnesses:

J. F. CONWAY,

CHARLES L. RAYMOND.