Cole Manufacturing Company [1]

Cole Manufacturing Company

A seed planter made by Cole Manufacturing Company, 1920-1940. Image courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History.

by Douglas Helms, 2006

Cole Manufacturing Company [2] was founded by brothers E. M. and E. A. Cole in Charlotte [3] in January 1900 to manufacture seed planters invented and patented by E. M. Cole. Brightly painted farm implements bearing the Cole Manufacturing Company label were a common sight on North Carolina farms during the first half of the twentieth century. By the mid-1920s, the company was the world's largest factory devoted solely to making seed planters and fertilizer distributors.

Cole Manufacturing, which operated its own foundry, made the transition from mule-drawn implements to multirow tractor-drawn implements and had sold more than 2 million seed planters, fertilizer distributors, and grain drills in the domestic and export markets by 1961. By the mid-1970s, the company had introduced a line of hand-pushed equipment to capitalize on the interest in home gardening. Jean Cole Hatcher [4] succeeded her father, E. A. Cole, as president of the company, and she was followed by her son John Cole Hatcher. The company ceased operations in the early 1980s.

References:

LeGette Blythe and Charles Raven Brockman, *Hornet's Nest: The Story of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County* (1961).

Edgar T. Thompson, *Agricultural Mecklenburg and Industrial Charlotte, Social and Economic* (1926).

Additional Resources:

Cole Planter Company History: http://www.coleplanter.com/history.htm [2]

Image Credit:

A seed planter made by Cole Manufacturing Company, 1920-1940. Image courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History. Available from https://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org/Collections [5]. (accessed June 26, 2012).

Subjects:
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Businesses [7]
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N.C. Industrial Revolution (1900-1929) [9]
Authors:
Helms, J. Douglas [10]
Origin - location:
Charlotte [11]
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Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.[12]

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