

of course, is not true for extreme variations in seeding rate.

### Time of Sowing

It is known that in Canterbury most farmers now prefer to sow wheat in autumn, that is in May and June. This is not always possible, because of weather or because of the farm programme with other crops. It was hoped that the survey would give an estimate of the relative yields obtained from spring- and autumn-sown crops. Unfortunately, in all years other than 1945, only very few crops were sown after the end of July; none at all was sown in 1948 and 1949, so no yield comparison could be obtained. The results for 1945 when the percentage of spring-sown crops was higher cannot be relied on, since the number of crops in 1 year alone is not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of the true difference.

### Crop Rotations

At least 9 different rotation patterns were followed in this area and no one in particular was outstandingly popular. In the earlier years of the survey immediately after the war there was an even wider range of rotations, but the patterns gradually became more stabilised at the 9 standard ones. Wheat was sown immediately after grass in 8 per cent. of the fields, and was sown after grass but with an intermediate crop in 25 per cent. of the fields. The remaining two-thirds of all fields had been in crops for at least 2 years before the wheat crop. This shows that either a wheat crop is being taken fairly late in the rotation from grass to grass or that many farms are practising almost pure cropping with very



Wheat being drilled. In the Christchurch survey area seeding rates varied from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{1}{4}$  bushels per acre for autumn-sown crops and generally were  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or 3 bushels per acre for spring-sown crops. In the Ashburton survey area the standard rate was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 bushels per acre.



A crop of Solid Straw Tuscan. This variety and Fife Tuscan were favoured in the Weedons district of the Christchurch survey area, but elsewhere in the area Cross 7 was the most popular.