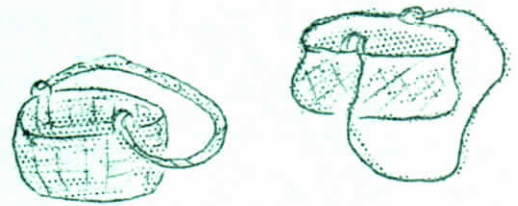


The plowing is done. The day is here to plant the seed. The farmer goes to his field very early in the morning. Often it is raining when he tries to plant his seeds.

The farmer does not have any machinery to do this important work. He uses his own hands to throw the seeds on the ground. He does it very carefully so the seed will be spread out evenly over all the field.

Some farmers carried their seed in a basket like one of these.



Many farmers made a kind of bag at their waist to carry the seed. They folded over a piece of heavy cloth and tucked the ends very carefully into their belt. (They called their belt a girdle) They put the seeds into this bag.

The Bible calls this planting of the seed.



TURN CARD OVER

Sowing

The farmer hoped that all of his seed would grow. But he knew there were enemies that might destroy the seed.

1. Birds might eat the seed.
2. It might rain so hard the seed would wash away.
3. Caterpillars might eat the little plants.
4. A "sirocca" might kill the plant.
5. Weeds might keep the seed from growing.

Jesus told a story about a man who went out to sow. This seed fell in 4 different kinds of soil. Some of the seed grew and some didn't. When Jesus tried to tell people about God He knew that His words would fall on different kinds of heart-soil too. What were the kinds of soil? Look in Mark 4:3-8 and 14-20.