

Small trap doors to permit entrance of air should be provided at the base of the building; and there should be air flues in the roof, for which there are various plans. The number of top ventilators in a building is of course regulated by the length of the building.

The ventilation of the central part of the house will be more easily done if the building is of only a moderate width, say twenty-eight to thirty-two feet.

The choice of location of the curing house is an important matter. The curing barn should be built on dry ground. If necessary, the site should be raised in order to avoid dampness. Low places, situated near marshes or running water, should be carefully avoided, as well as hilltops or too high places where strong winds might influence the curing process. The best location is a well drained site in an open space, but not exposed to the wind. The building should be placed lengthwise with the direction of the prevailing winds during the curing season.

In arranging for the hanging of tobacco, care should be taken to have the laths far enough above each other, so that when the tobacco is hung there will be sufficient ventilation space between the tips of the stalks or leaves of the top tier and the ends of the stalks or leaves of the tier below. The space between the laths of the different tiers will be determined by the average size of the product, i.e., the length of the stalks or plants; or by the variety of tobacco. If the leaves are hung on twine, as has been referred to, there will of course be much less space between the various tiers of twine than between the tiers of laths.

Laths should be placed side by side, six inches apart at least. The lengths of twine should be at such a distance from one another as to leave a space between the leaves of half the width of the hand when the wilting is completed, thus allowing for ample ventilation.

The bottom tiers should be placed high enough above the floor to leave a space of at least two feet between the latter and tips of the tobacco.

CURING.

The curing should start very slowly, in order to obtain a good yellow colour; after which more air may be admitted. To hasten the yellowing, the curing barn may be kept closed a day or two at the start; that is to say, the side trap doors should be closed, but the ventilators at the top should remain open, so as not to suppress ventilation altogether. The ventilation may be increased as soon as the edges of the leaves have turned brown, and when the mid-rib of the leaf has become supple. On warm and damp days, the curing barn may be completely opened. On a very windy day, care should be taken to close the openings facing the wind, in order to avoid breaking the leaves or too rapid curing.

In continued damp weather, it will be necessary to dry artificially the air of the house, to avoid mould. Little fires of smokeless materials such as dry, scentless wood, charcoal, etc., should be started at various places on the floor of the curing barn, in order to dry the air evenly in all parts of the building without causing too high an elevation of temperature. Continued dampness might cause the products to turn dull and grey, instead of taking on a bright colour. Artificial drying will remove this danger. A tight curing barn is indispensable for this operation.