

HOME-MADE FRUIT EVAPORATOR.



CONSTRUCT a frame-work of scantlings, the edges of which should be dressed so that all the scantlings will be exactly the same width. Cut them four feet long and fasten together with strips of plank three inches wide, and sufficient length to place them exactly three feet and one fourth of an inch apart.

These strips should be fastened to the side of the scantlings near their ends. Make seven of such frames and place them two feet apart, and fasten together by nailing on the ends of the scantlings strips of plank for plates, and as wide as the scantlings and twelve feet two inches in length. Side up with weather boarding, or what is much better, flooring, shiplap or boxing, which should be placed on perpendicularly. At each end there should be a door.

The roof should be made in the ordinary way, except a vent at the top, two inches wide, the entire length of the evaporator. A trough like covering should be made for this opening and placed one inch above the roof. Strips of moulding, to support the trays, should be tacked to the inner edge of the studding. These strips should be at least one half an inch thick, and not more than one inch in width. Begin six inches above the lower end of the studding and tack these strips three inches apart.

The trays or frames upon which the fruit is to be placed should be just two by three feet and one inch in depth. The tray frames should be made of strips one inch square. The bottom of the trays should be made of plastering laths two feet in length. They should be placed one-fourth of an inch apart, except in the centre of the trays, where should be a vacancy of two inches to give proper ventilation.

The laths at each end of the tray should have their outer edge dressed, and should be placed on in such a way as to give the tray a play endwise in the evaporator of one-eighth of an inch. There should be seventy-two of these trays.

The evaporator, when completed, should be placed over a furnace of stone or brick, made similar to a sorghum evaporator furnace.

Dig a trench ten feet long and as deep as desired for a fire-pit, and wide enough when lined with brick or stone to be fifteen inches from wall to wall. Cover the front end of the furnace with a wide flat stone, and the remainder of the furnace with heavy sheet iron or pieces of old stoves.

Around this furnace build walls two feet high. The distance between the side walls should be three feet, and that of the end walls twelve feet. Upon these walls rests the evaporator.

There should be two or three openings, the size of a brick, left in the side walls near the ground, for the entrance of cold air, to drive the heat rapidly upward. Close these when necessary. Attach to the rear end of the furnace a stovepipe,