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THE TENT FLY TRAP

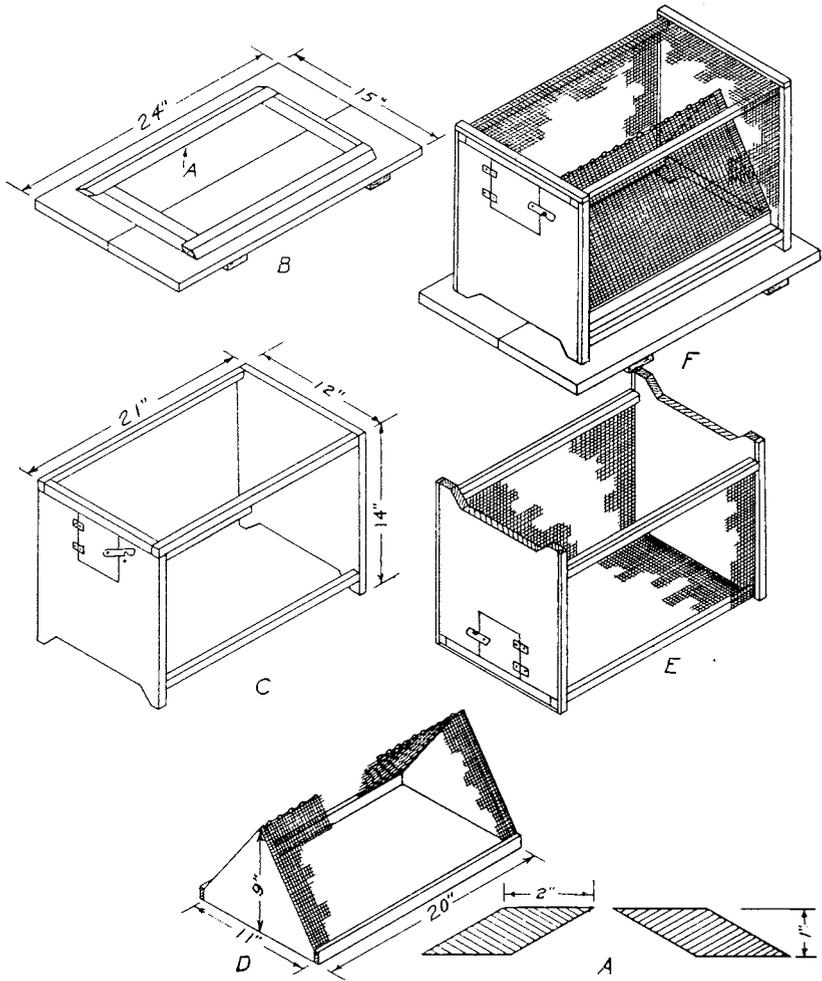
By F. L. COOPER



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THE TENT FLY TRAP

By F. L. COOPER

While the use of fly traps is to be commended and encouraged, one should not think them a panacea for the eradication of flies. Fly traps have their place and the proper use of them is well worth while for the trapping of house flies, blow flies, screw worm flies, etc.

The use of fly traps is, of course, only a portion of the control methods that should be practiced, the most important of which is the elimination of breeding places, or the chemical treatment of the same. This latter treatment is not practiced on our farms sufficiently to reduce the number of flies to any considerable extent, altho in cities or in our up-to-date towns, it has been followed with good success. All premises have been kept clean, and dead animals and manure piles removed.

This work has produced wonderful results and can be well copied by our rural residents. The spread of many well-known diseases can be traced to the common house fly. Still the fly is too often looked upon as an annoyance rather than a health menace, that can be in a measure controlled.

Fly trapping should begin as early in the spring as the first flies appear. Altho few flies are caught at this time, those that are caught would mean millions later on. The kind of flies caught depends to a great extent upon the kind of bait used to attract them.

Kinds of Fly Traps.—There are two kinds of fly traps in common use. They are the conical and tent-shaped traps. The conical trap consists of a screened cylinder around a frame of double barrel hoops, whose top and bottom are connected by four or more wooden strips placed vertically. These strips extend about one inch below the bottom hoops, acting as legs. At the bottom a screen cone is inserted extending to within three or four inches of the top of the trap. Inside the top hoops is inserted either a barrel-head or screening, across which is placed a wooden-framed trapdoor to remove the flies. The bait is placed at the bottom. The flies are attracted by the odor, and, after eating their fill, see the light above and attempt to fly out or crawl up the cone, which leads them to the apex, where an opening is made large enough for a fly to crawl thru. when once in the trap, their only attempt at escape is by flying upwards, where there are no openings.

No drawing is furnished for the conical trap, as it can be purchased from most hardware stores for approximately \$1.00, which is nearly the cost of material, if made on the farm. While the size of the trap can vary with the hoops and material available on the farm, the dimensions are generally about 24 inches high, 18 inches in diameter, with the cone 20 to 22 inches in height.

Tent-Shaped Trap.—The tent-shaped trap is illustrated and the steps in the construction are shown so that it requires little explanation. It consists of two end pieces, 1 in. thick, 12 in. wide and 14 in. high. At each corner is attached 1 in. x 1 in. strips, making the box 21 in. long. (Fig. C.) On the sides and top is tacked galvanized or copper screening, kept in place by wooden strips. (Fig. E.) Two triangular pieces of wood are cut 11 in. at the base and 9 in. high, as illustrated in Fig. D. To these at the lower corner are nailed $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 2 in. strips of board.

This makes the frame so it will just fit into the box from the bottom. The length should be 20 in. Over this framework is tacked galvanized or copper screening on the two sides. In the ridge at intervals of about 1 in. are pierced holes large enough for a fly to enter. After this "A" frame is completed, it is inserted with the side up in the screened-in box and tacked in place, or a small carriage bolt can be inserted at each end for this purpose.

The floor, as illustrated in Fig. B, is made by using two 8 in. boards, 24 in. long, across which are nailed two 1 in. x 2 in. boards, 15 in. long. On top of this floor are nailed four beveled boards as illustrated by Fig. A. These are nailed so the flies can walk up the slope, but cannot walk out again. While these strips might not be used, they are recommended, and the trap will be more efficient with their use. The trap can be hooked to the floor by the use of hooks and eyes, or can be loose, except that a high wind might blow it away, if it is left in an unprotected place.

The Bait.—The bait is placed under the trap and the action is the same as in the conical trap, except that there are more holes where the fly may enter. The type of bait can be molasses or vinegar and water, brown sugar and water, banana peelings, or anything that attracts house flies.

After the flies are caught, boiling water can be poured on them after which they can be given to the chickens, if desired. For this reason it is well to use non-rusting screening, and the woodwork is best painted or enameled to prevent warping.