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## MAKING THE CORN CRIB RAT-PROOF

Why Not Prevent the Enormous Losses That Rats Each Year Inflict On Us?

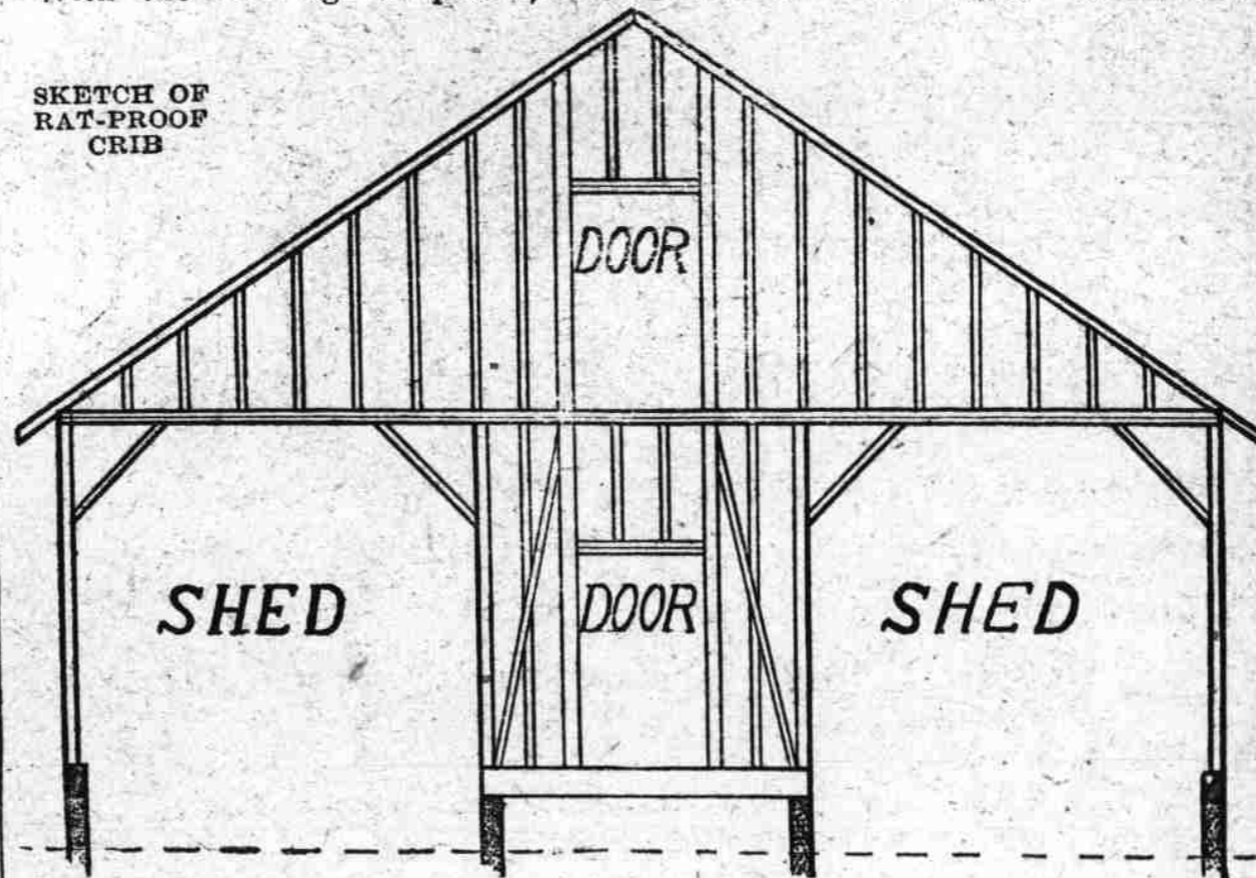
RATS do untold thousands of dollars worth of damage to stored corn every year. If money equivalent to the value of the corn they destroy was spent in erecting better buildings for grain storage, the reign of this pest would soon end.

You need not necessarily make a crib like the one shown in the illustration in order to build a structure that is proof against rats and mice. This illustration is merely a suggestion as to the best type of crib for the average small farmer to build; and the method of rat-proofing explained in this article may be employed in the construction of a building of any desired type.

After framing has been completed a rough sub-floor is laid in the crib. On this sub-floor is placed sheet tin, and this is tacked in place with three penny wire nails. The tin should also extend up the studdings for a few inches. When the floor is completely covered with tin, a final floor of tongue and grooved material is put in place.

With the flooring completed, the

SKETCH OF RAT-PROOF CRIB



next step is to cover the inside of the crib with galvanized screen wire of a one-fourth-inch mesh. This is tacked to the studding with poultry wire staples, the walls of the sides, ends, and the joists overhead being completely covered with this wire.

When the wire is in place the crib is next covered inside with lath one inch thick and three inches wide, an inch space being left between each lath to allow air circulation. With the lath placed inside the crib, the pressure of the corn will not tend to break them loose from the studding, and the wire, protected by the lath, will not be broken.

The edges of the doors and door-facings should be faced with metal strips to discourage any gnawing at cracks. It is also well to make all doors double with a middle layer of tin as in the construction of the floor.

In the plan shown on this page, the crib proper is 8 feet wide, and the sheds each 10 feet wide, giving the whole structure a width of 28 feet. To make the building well proportioned and to house an average size Southern corn crop the crib should be about 36 feet long.

The upper part of the building is designed for storing small grains, and for this purpose grain bins may be arranged on each side of the upper doorway. If this part is used for storing grain, it should also be rat-proofed. Where the farmer raises no small grains and a large amount of corn, the main part of the crib in its entirety may be used for a crib.

The ends of the crib and shed-walls are weather-boarded. The framing is made of 2x4 material, being doubled for plates, and the corner posts are of 4x4 studdings. The foundation may be made of concrete, rubble, or

brickwork. The sills should be of material 6x8 inches. P. T. H.

## Orchard and Garden Work This Week and Next

HURRY your spraying operations if you wish to kill the scale before the fruit buds open.

Sow eggplant seed in the hotbed. Keep the plants growing nicely until they are transplanted to the garden in order that they may not become stunted.

Be sure to have the material on hand for your summer spraying when the time comes to spray. The first spray is the most important of all.

In case you did not grow your own beet plants, order some now for transplanting. They will produce beets ready for use three or four weeks earlier than seed sowed in the garden.

You may produce your own asparagus crowns for planting next fall by sowing seed this spring. Sow the seed thinly in the drill and keep plants cultivated throughout the summer.

As a precaution against scab, seed Irish potatoes should be soaked in a formalin solution before being planted. Use one pint of commercial formalin to thirty gallons of water, allowing the potatoes to remain in the solution for two hours. Commercial

formalin may be secured from druggists.

Set out asparagus crowns for the new asparagus plantation. If you did not grow your own crowns, you can secure them from seedsmen. Order only the largest one year old crowns as they produce heavier yields than the smaller crowns. Remember to make the soil very rich and to set the crowns deeply.

Let us not be satisfied until every farm home in the South has the cozy, inviting appearance which is produced by well placed plantings of shade trees, shrubbery, vines, and flowers. One can hardly repress a feeling of gloom when passing a farm house where cotton, corn, or some other field crop is planted right up to the very door step. There is not in any section of our country a greater wealth of native trees, shrubs, and flowers, which with little difficulty may be transplanted to the home grounds.

If you have seedling pecan trees that you wish to top-work, cut back the tops of the trees now, before spring growth begins. Saw off the main trunk so as to leave a whorl of three or four branches and cut these back to stubs about a foot in length. A few minor branches should be left to take care of the surplus sap due to a lessening of the top of the tree. New shoots will form on the stubs in the spring which by the middle of summer will be ready to bud. It is necessary to go over the trees two or three times during summer in order to keep the surplus shoots removed. Only two shoots should be allowed to each stub, which will give two chances of getting a "live bud."

F. J. CRIDER, Associate Horticulturist, Clemson College, S. C.

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