

IMPROVED CONE-DRYING RACK

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A cone drying rack has been developed at the Fort Valley Experimental Forest, Ariz., for small lots of ponderosa pine cones. It is portable, rodent-proof, and holds enough cones to provide 10 to 15 pounds of seed.

The unit consists of six 3/4-inch plywood trays, 3 by 6 feet by 5 5/8 inches, which are stacked on top of each other (fig. 1). The bottom tray has three drawers that catch the seed (fig. 2) and rockers at the ends so the cones can be agitated during drying. The other five trays hold cones. Each drying tray has a bottom of 3/8-inch mesh galvanized wire screen (fig. 3). Three-quarter-inch holes, covered on the inside by fine screen, were drilled on all sides of the cone trays for air circulation.

Each tray has three separate compartments so three different species of cones may be dried simultaneously. Each compartment holds approximately 3/4 to 1 bushel of green cones.



Figure 1.--Drying trays assembled. Angle irons at corners hold the complete rack together. The screened lids are hinged. The rockers at the ends of the bottom tray permit the cones to be agitated.

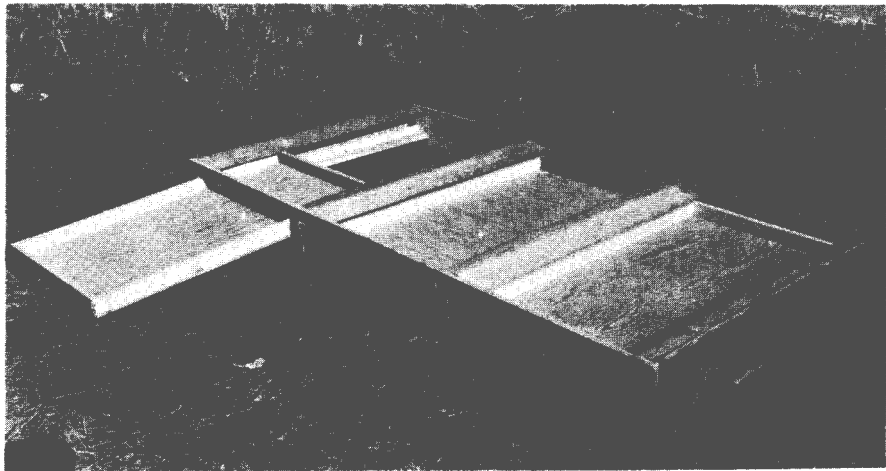


Figure 2.--Bottom tray. Sheet metal baffles at ends of tray and between drawers direct seeds into the drawers.

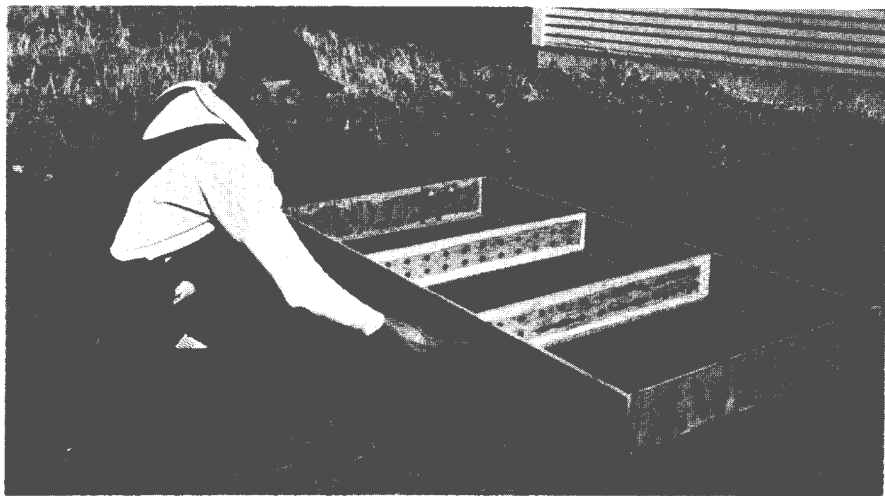


Figure 3.--Individual drying tray showing 3/8-inch screen bottom and 3/4-inch holes for air circulation.