

It's my intention that this idea should be a part of the public domain and should never be patented.

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This document is approximately 420 words long.

I can't speak for all different kinds of grasshoppers in all different parts of the country, but I did notice some interesting things about the grasshoppers in Atascosa County, Texas. That happened when I visited my father in Poteet, during the summer of 1995. I noticed that, when the grasshoppers were flying, they commonly crashed into the walls of the house. I noticed that, when they did so, they fell straight down, all the way to the ground. It didn't seem to bother them a lot but the fact is that they didn't recover their flight before hitting the ground. They just stoically fell all of the way to the ground and then took off again. I also noticed that when they took off, they didn't jump straight up. They left the ground at an angle significantly less than 90°. I'd say that it was closer to 30°. The significance of my observations is that, if you could build a trap into which the grasshoppers would fall but out of which they could not jump, then you'd have a dandy source of free, high protein feed for your chickens.

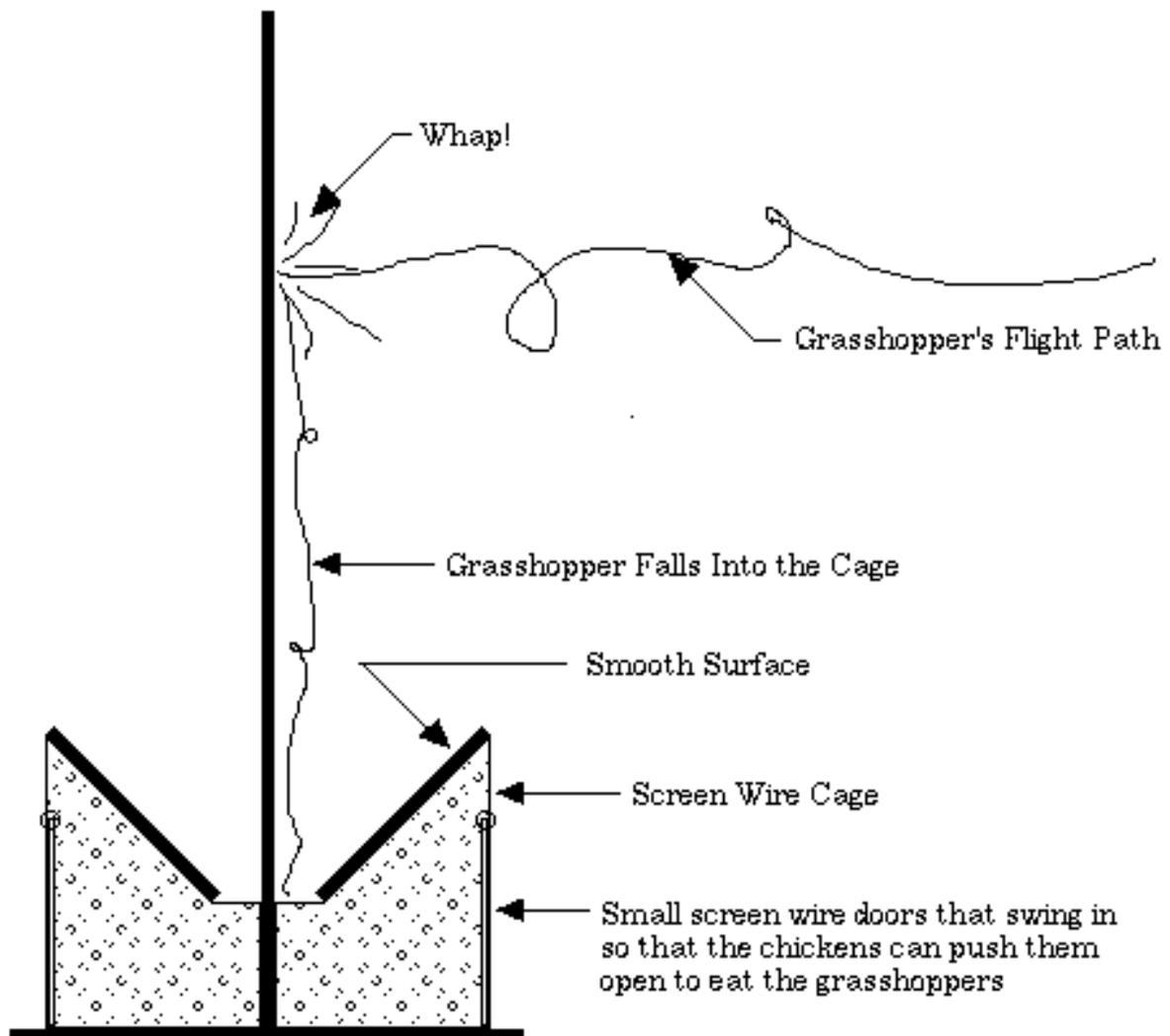
There are probably a lot of possible ways to build such a trap. I've suggested one way in the sketch on the next page. You can build the cage out of screen wire and pieces of wood. The sloped top should be made from something slick, like a piece of galvanized sheet iron. Just set the cage next to any handy and appropriate wall, where grasshoppers fly and chickens lurk. The grasshoppers will hit the wall and fall into the trap. They won't be able to hop out again. The chickens will push the little swinging doors open and eat the grasshoppers.

If you don't have a handy wall or if you want to put the thing out in the open, away from buildings, then just use an upright sheet of plywood. Then, you can put cages on both sides of it and catch the grasshoppers coming and going, as they say.

What a way to entertain your friends.

“Hey Bubba! Grab a beer an' let's go watch the grasshopper trap fer a whahl!”

Grasshopper Trap



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