

The Curing of Ginger.

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A CROP of ginger was recently harvested on the Experiment Station, Peradeniya. The total crop from, $\frac{1}{4}$ acre was 1296 lb. This crop was divided into three equal lots of 432 lb. and treated as follows:—

Lot 1. Ceylon curing.—After washing off the earth the rhizomes were immersed in a cauldron of boiling water for five minutes. They were then spread in the sun on mats daily for five days until partially dry. They were then again immersed in boiling water for five minutes and thereafter spread in the sun again daily for eleven days till thoroughly dry. The whole process occupied sixteen days.

Lot 2. Jamaica curing.—After brushing off the earth the rhizomes were peeled by women with pocket-knives. They were then immersed in cold water for a night and thereafter spread on mats in the sun for six days. They were then again immersed in cold water for one night and again spread in the sun for a further five days, by which time the rhizomes were thoroughly dry. The whole process occupied eleven days.

Lot 3. No curing.—This lot was stored in a covered building. After four weeks the three lots were sold at a public auction at which a fair number of local traders were present.

The weights of the three lots together with the prices realised and cost of curing will be found below.

Lot	Original fresh Weight lb.	Weight before sale lb.	Percentage outturn on fresh weight	Price realised per lb. Rs. cts.	Value of lot Rs. cts.	Cost of curing lot Rs. cts.	Value of lot less cost of curing Rs. cts.
1	432	97	22	— 16	15 52	1 50	+ 14 02
2	432	78	15	— 16	12 48	17 25	— 6 77
3	432	373	86	— 04	14 92	— —	+ 14 92

It will be seen that the peeled ginger had no superior attraction for the traders who were present over the unpeeled ginger, and that the price realised for lot 2 did not cover the cost of curing.

It appeared moreover that up to a month from harvesting it was equally profitable to sell the ginger in the uncured state.

The women employed in peeling were not used to the work, the knives were probably not the most suitable, and there is little doubt that the process could be cheapened. Unless however a preference is shown for peeled ginger it cannot be profitable.