Industrial waste materials that represent disposal problems, effluent sludge from paper manufacturing and tree bark from sawmill operations, are being used to grow tomato plants. The research program is being conducted by Arthur D. Little, Inc., for Crane & Co., Inc., Dalton, Mass. For agricultural purposes, the combination of the byproducts is more effective than either of the mixture’s components alone. The resulting earthen composition has excellent texture and water-retention characteristics and provides for good air circulation. Its possible uses are as a mulch, soil amender, and carrier for fertilizer and herbicides.

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