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Miracle Fertilizer

Today there are more and more recommended ways to make plants grow larger and faster: music, love conversation, just to mention a few. Strange enough the story of Jack and the Beanstalk may very nearly come true one of these days thanks to something entirely different. An accidental discovery may turn out to be the biggest agricultural news of this or any other century.

The discovery was made by a medical doctor working with NASA a man named Walter Kemmerer. What happened was this. Dr. Kemmerer wanted to find out if moon dust contained any contamination that might infect earth plants. So he took a bunch of plants, scratched their leaves, and inserted some moon dust.

Except for one plant, a fern; it didn't lend itself to leaf scratching. So the doctor simply sprinkled a bit of moon dust on the soil around the plant, just to see what would happen.

What happened was that the fern tripled in size! A flabbergasted Dr. Demmerer, knowing he was on to something very big, immediately conducted other tests. . .all with the same fantastic results.

So far it's a mystery, although scientists do know that moon dust contains more titanium, zirconium and

chromium than earth soil, and they're testing to see which of these three elements . . . if any. . . is the miracle fertilizer.

More exciting, the surface of the moon itself might be ideal for farming, although the problems of getting water there and building greenhouses big enough are pretty forbidding, all the same NASA was seriously thinking about having future astronauts erect a small greenhouse there and test some fast-growing plants.

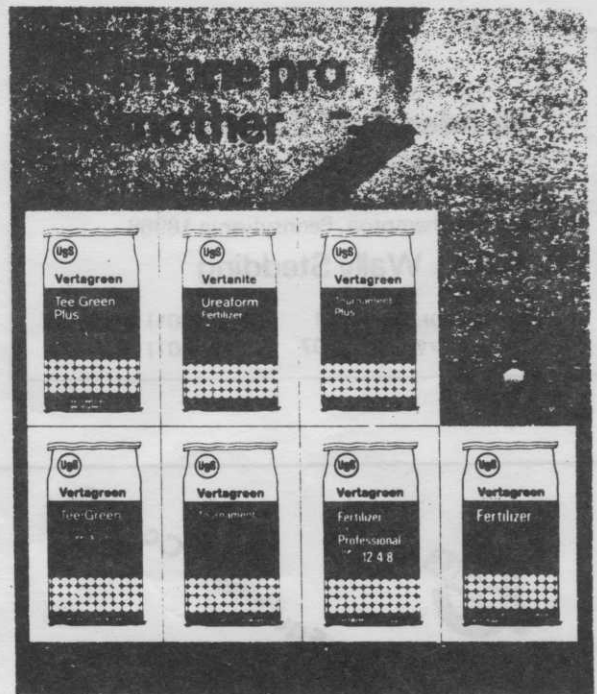
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