



Experiments to revolutionise gardening are being made at Saints Hill by American scientist Dr. Ron Hubbard. These tomato and sweet corn plants have already reached a height of 16 feet and completely dwarf Dr. Hubbard's son Quinton. He hopes to produce a tomato tree

His tomatoes keep on growing — to 16 feet

EXPERIMENTS being conducted by a nuclear scientist at Saint Hill Manor, East Grinstead, could have far-reaching effects on agriculture. Some of his tomato plants are growing from ten to 16 feet high!

One most interesting discovery of Dr. Ron Hubbard is a method of curing and preventing mildew in greenhouses.

Dr. Hubbard, who works in greenhouses fitted almost as laboratories, said this week that market gardeners had lost thousands of pounds through mildew.

"An infra-red ray lamp inserted in the greenhouse is a complete protection against mildew and a cure if it has already started to affect the plants," he said.

"The cost is no problem either. Once the lamps have been bought the running expense amounts to only a few pence each day."

FRUIT CALORE

In his tomato experiment, Dr. Hubbard claims that his plants, growing to a height of ten to 16ft., are ever-bearing.

By treating tomato seeds with radio-active rays he can produce a freak strain of tomato that grows rapidly and produces five times the normal amount of fruit.

His plants contain approximately

15 trusses with 45 tomatoes to each truss.

But Dr. Hubbard's experiments do not end there. In another of his greenhouses is sweet corn, which, under normal conditions grows to a height of four to five feet, its leaves being used as fodder.

MORE FODDER

Dr. Hubbard's sweet corn, treated with radio-activity, has shot up to a height of 12 feet, with 38 days' growth still left.

"Just think of the increase in the amount of fodder from each plant, also the increase in the amount of sweet corn. It represents about five times the normal quantity," he said.

Dr. Hubbard is also experimenting with the effect of light on plants and the growth of plants by light alone.

Agricultural authorities are following Dr. Hubbard's experiments with great interest. He claims to be working 20 years' in advance of present methods.