

This 124 by 30 foot specially designed Quonset building is covered by a double thick translucent ployester roof. The kit cost \$12,500 for everything except concrete, lumber and labor.

## Hydroponics

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tube and vines are rolled up and disposed of, making room for the new crop. Growers with two or more houses have a spare building to cultivate seedlings, replenishing the plants as the old are disposed of. This roll-up, disposal method reduces labor cost by 90 per cent over the previous hydroponic techniques.

Montgomery said the largest cost of his year round

operation was keeping the temperature suitable for the plants, between 70 and 80 degrees F during daylight hours and a minimum of 60 degrees at night. The Quonset hut utilizes the warmth of the sun, but oil heat will be needed to make up the night time and winter temperatures.

Montgomery estimates a family can net \$9000 to \$10,000 a year per building, requiring only 30 to 35 hours

a week, or between four and a half to five hours per day. "And on top of that, hydroponics is a wonderful way for a family to teach its children all about horticulture."

Montgomery's secret to success is in precision management. Nutrients must be carefully measured, pH level, temperature and humidity must be monitored frequently and controlled, and the plants must be kept disease free.

Montgomery is already planning to build a second building to raise lettuce.

Lettuce, cucumbers and peppers are suited for hydroponic production but tomatoes are suggested for a high-yield crop that will meet year-round demands.

Montgomery is a  
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Tomato plants get their nurishment from a disposable plastic tube. The plants are suspended so that as tomatoes are harvested from the bottom up, the plant can lean on the wood sticks seen at the bottom of the plant. A plastic tube travels between the plants, carrying warm air to keep the temperature fairly constant.

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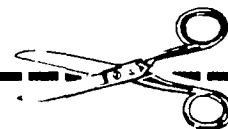
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No soil will be found in this "garden", the hydroponic system uses water and liquid fertilizer pumped through disposable plastic tubes.

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