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**Interview with David Munns, author of *Engineering the Environment***

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Robinson, Michael F. "David Munns, 'Engineering the Environment: Phytotrons and the Quest for Climate Control in the Cold War.'" *New Books in Science, Technology, and Society*, June 24, 2019. Mp3, 34:16.

"Phytotron" is such a great name for something that is, when you look at it, a high-tech greenhouse. But don't sell it short! The phytotron was not only at the center of post-war plant science, but also connected to the Cold War, commercial agriculture, and long-duration space flight. Today I speak with David Munns, professor of history at John Jay College, about his new book, *Engineering the Environment: Phytotrons and the Quest for Climate Control in the Cold War* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2017), but we also talk about Matt Damon, shitting in space, and growing pot in your dorm room. (Source: [New Books Network](#) )

In this episode of *New Books in Science, Technology, and Society*, Michael F. Robinson interviews David Munns, professor of history at John Jay College and a former fellow at the Rachel Carson Center.

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- New Books Network  
<https://newbooksnetwork.com/>
- *Engineering and Environment* at University of Pittsburgh Press  
<https://upittpress.org/books/9780822944744/>
- "What Living in Space Teaches Us about Living on Earth" by David Munns  
<http://doi.org/10.5282/rcc/8704>

**Websites linked in this text:**

- <https://newbooksnetwork.com/david-moon-the-american-steppes-the-unexpected-russian-roots-of-great-plains-ag>



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