Multimedia Library Collection: Sound & Vision

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

Robinson, Michael F.

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.

© New Books Network

Related links:

- 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

riculture-1870s-1930s-cambridge-up-2020/

Sound & Vision Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal
Interview with David Munns, author of *Engineering the Environment*
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/9110
Print date: 08 November 2026 11:41:04