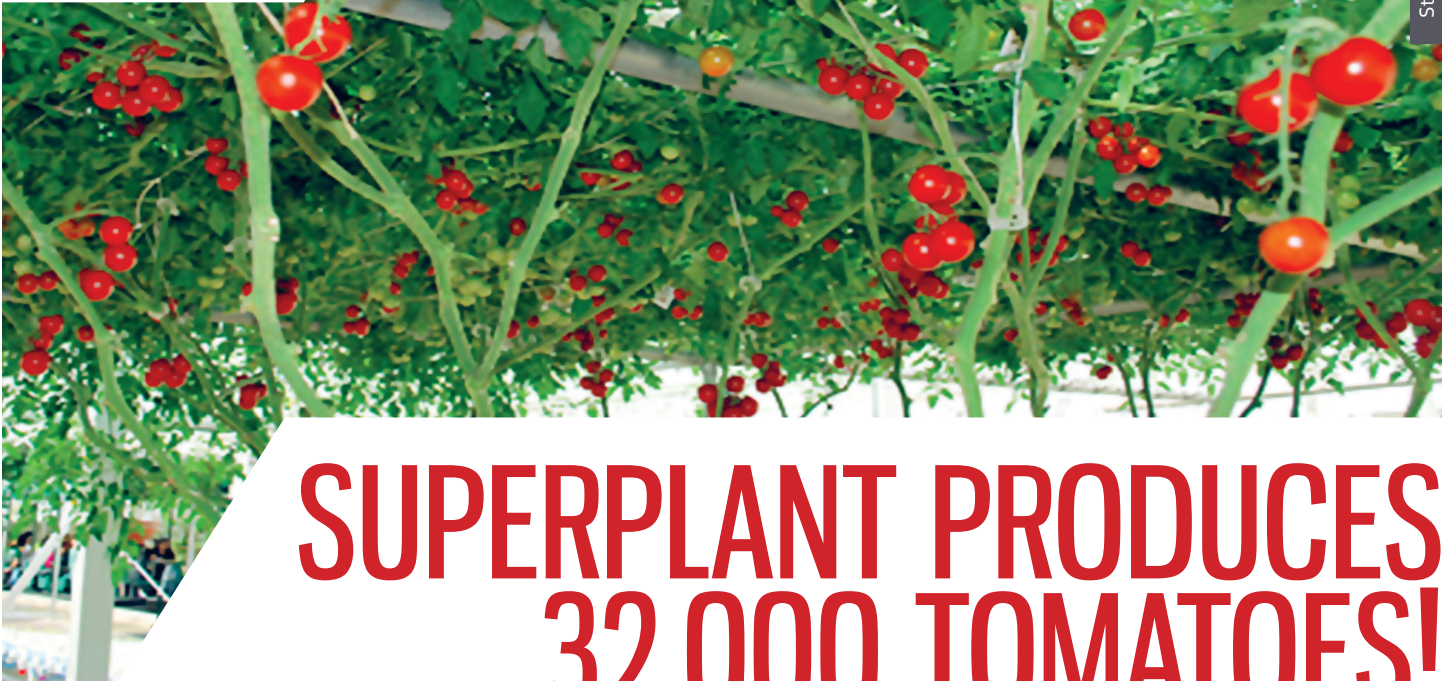


AMAZING PLANT: The total weight of the tomatoes it yielded was 1,152 pounds.



Steve Conley

SUPERPLANT PRODUCES 32,000 TOMATOES!

IS IT A WORLD RECORD? *GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS* IS LOOKING INTO GROWER'S CLAIM.

Growers at an Orlando, Florida greenhouse say that they harvested more than 32,000 tomatoes from just one plant. The total weight of the tomatoes was 1,152 pounds — about the same as four hefty NFL linebackers!

The greenhouse is hoping to get the plant into the *Guinness Book of World Records*. No single plant has ever produced anything close to 1,152 pounds of tomatoes before.

The high yield isn't the only amazing thing about this plant. Most tomato plants are grown in soil. That's not the case at this greenhouse. Growers there use a soil-less method to grow their tomatoes and other vegetables.

Many people think plants need soil in order to photosynthesize. But that's not true. The plant scientists at this greenhouse say that their tomato plants thrive on nothing but nutrient-rich water, CO₂, and sunlight!

Growing plants without soil may sound strange. But it isn't the only weird thing these growers do. They've also found a way to grow pumpkins that look like Mickey Mouse, big ears and all! They create the look-alikes by growing the pumpkins in a Mickey-shaped mold.

The greenhouse says that the *Guinness Book of World Records* is looking into its claim that his tomato plant is the most productive one ever. Guinness will announce its findings soon.

NO DIRT: Plant scientist Les Frey explains the greenhouse's soil-less growing techniques to a reporter.



Steve Conley