

Orchids, Gardenias for New York or Mushrooms for Los Angeles . . . All Grown Here

# . . . and **WHOLE U. S.** Looks to Torrance

## Millard Ranch Grows Epicure's Favorite Fungi

ANOTHER unusual product of the soil in Torrance is mushrooms, of which probably 25 per cent of the Los Angeles requirements are supplied by the J. J. Millard Mushroom Ranch on Sepulveda boulevard near Hawthorne avenue.

This is a Torrance industry of comparatively recent development, begun only a few years ago. Millard started it with one mushroom house but has had to triple the number, while the newer houses are much larger than the original one.

Entering one of these houses one waits for his eyes to become accustomed to the darkness. Then he sees racks, three decks high, running the full length of the structure. These contain about six inches of specially prepared compost and manure, from which all the animal matter and heat have

been extracted by boiling before the mushroom spawn was introduced.

### Buttons Pierce Soil

A MONTH after planting the soil is pierced by tiny white buttons and these continue to bear daily crops for the next 90 days, after which the racks are torn down and the compost used for fertilizer on lawns, the city being an extensive purchaser for use in its parks. The cycle is then repeated and, with three houses, Millard is able to handle almost continuous production.

A total yield of a pound to the square foot is not unusual, while the crop has been sold

for as high as 50 cents a pound, f.o.b. the ranch.

Only tested spawn is used so that it is impossible for any poisonous toadstools to grow in cultured mushrooms, whereas only an expert can distinguish between some varieties in field-grown crops.

(But if you are an expert at telling the difference, it might be a good idea to watch some of the local parks, for Millard admits that some of the spawn still remains when the city purchases the wornout compost. Or, if you have used it on your own lawn, you might find an additional crop growing there for your own use.)

## ● TORRANCE . . . on Review

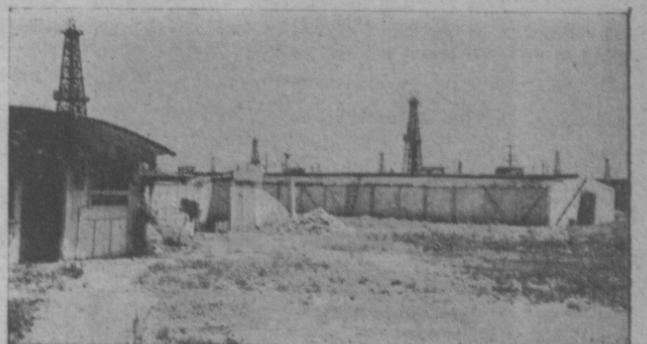
Millard ranch supplies quarter of Los Angeles' needs.

Three large houses needed to grow these fungi. Crops picked daily after 30-day germination period.

Yield of pound to foot is common, with price as high as 50 cents per pound.



● Part of the Two Acres of Greenhouses at the Wright Nursery.



● And This Is a Mushroom House at Millard's Mushroom Ranch.

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