

WASC 643

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Secret blasts anger the
tomato men.

Evening News

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SECRET BLASTS ANGER THE TOMATO MEN

Explosions from a top secret Government establishment are "causing a headache" to tomato growers.

For they say that powerful and frequent explosions from the Ministry of Technology's Explosive Research and Development Establishment at Waltham Abbey, Essex, are damaging their greenhouses.

Now some of the nurserymen want the explosive "boffins" to stop the banging.

And they have called for an investigation into the explosions and the effect they are having on the greenhouses.

Glass is cracking

One of the most worried nurserymen, Mr. Roden Greenall, of Harlow, Essex, who has a big nursery at Avey Lane, Waltham Abbey, says: "We are concerned at the powerful and frequent explosions.

"We have built seven acres of new glass on the nursery and already the vibration of the explosions is moving the greenhouses."

Mr. Greenall added: "The bangs are having a noticeable effect on the greenhouse structures. In many cases the glass is slipping from the structure clips and the glass is even cracking.

"Quite a few nurserymen particularly in the Pick Hill area of Waltham Abbey are worried about the explosions. If they continue on the present scale more serious damage will be caused. Something has got to be done."

Every sympathy

In addition to complaining to the Ministry, Mr. Greenall has asked Waltham Abbey urban council to help.

But the nurserymen may have to "go it alone" if they want the top secret experiments stopped.

For Waltham Abbey council say they have no powers to take any action against the Ministry Establishment.

The council say: "We have every sympathy with the nurserymen but all we can do is ask the establishment to keep the explosions to a minimum."

A spokesman for the Explosive Research Development Establishment said: "Test firings are carried out at infrequent intervals but most of them are not loud enough to be heard."

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