



1
00:00:00,369 --> 00:00:04,779

Hi, I am Matt Romeyn. I'm a plant scientist helping astronauts grow peppers in space.

2
00:00:04,779 --> 00:00:05,779

Why?

3
00:00:05,779 --> 00:00:09,630

Because in order to send humans to Mars, we need to spice things up.

4
00:00:09,630 --> 00:00:14,460

NASA astronaut Shane Kimbrough recently added water to 48 seedlings to start the experiment

5
00:00:14,460 --> 00:00:16,110

aboard the International Space Station.

6
00:00:16,110 --> 00:00:19,730

The peppers will be grown in the Advanced Plant Habitat, a plant growth chamber about the

7
00:00:19,730 --> 00:00:24,420

size of a kitchen oven. The peppers will be ready for harvest in about 3 and a half months.

8
00:00:24,420 --> 00:00:28,480

The type of peppers are NuMex 'Española Improved', a hybrid pepper from New Mexico

9
00:00:28,480 --> 00:00:30,240

often grown in the Hatch valley.

10
00:00:30,240 --> 00:00:35,960

These peppers had the best combination of performance and flavor of the nearly two dozen cultivars

11
00:00:35,960 --> 00:00:37,140

we tested.

12
00:00:37,140 --> 00:00:40,760
These peppers are not just flavorful, but
also nutritious, being more dense in Vitamin C

13
00:00:40,760 --> 00:00:42,190
than even an orange.

14
00:00:42,190 --> 00:00:46,739
This research will expand NASA's space cookbook
– helping keep astronauts healthy—and

15
00:00:46,739 --> 00:00:51,059
their senses satisfied-- as we venture to the Moon and Mars.