

## **So You Think You Have it Tough Now<sup>©</sup>**

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- In the late 1960s we grew most of our crop in recycled metal food cans.
- The cans were purchased from a pie factory, military bases, and schools.
- I cannot really remember what a full 1-gal can cost, but it was around three cents, while a 5-gal egg can cost about 25¢.
- Prior to potting plants in the cans we had to protect the metal from rusting. Most of the time we used road tar diluted with low flash-point Varsol, a solvent used for cleaning auto parts and tools. Varsol was also used in the dry cleaning industry. We purchased both the tar and Varsol in 55 gal drums.
- The cans were hand dipped into the tar, stacked and allowed to dry.
- It usually took a crew of four people all day to prepare enough cans for one day's potting.

