

High-Yield Vegetable Plots In The Arctic

The name of the northern Ural settlement of Kharp translated from the Nenets language means "Northern Lights". Apparently that must be why it didn't take much philosophizing to name the local dining hall "Light of the North". And it looks as though they weren't far from the truth.

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You go into the spacious premises and stand for some time transfixed: this is the subtropics, not the north! Everywhere there are flowers and evergreen plants and in general the whole interior is reminiscent of the south and warmth.

OK, you say, all this is fine, but in a dining hall it's not the interior that counts. But the food they serve here is also different. The selection of appetizers and first and second course dishes is varied, and the prices are moderate: a dinner consisting of four dishes rarely exceeds one ruble.

"But where did you get the fresh green vegetable?" I ask the dining hall workers.

"They're our own, they're not imported", they reply.

Ten years ago few people even in the Urals or Tyumen'Oblast knew about the tiny settlement of Kharp, situated on the banks of the little mountain river Sob'. Then intense work on the construction of gas-related industries began. Paved roads were needed. Transporting reinforced concrete panels from the "mainland" was expensive: it was far, there were