

Okay folks. Pay attention. This...



... is what the US Government says is a gas centrifuge used for processing nuclear fuel for reactors and warheads. It was found buried under a rosebush in Iraq, supposedly for 12 years.

And THIS...



Is an actual complete gas centrifuge facility in the United States, covering 750 acres. Doesn't look like something you could actually bury under a rose bush, does it?

There is a good reason for the size.



It takes HUNDREDS of gas centrifuges, shown above, to produce even miniscule amounts of uranium 235. Facilities for producing uranium 235 for power reactors or weapons are therefore huge. A single gas centrifuge is useless except for laboratory experiments involving microscopic amounts of materials. Gas centrifuges for isotope separation are not used to produce U238. They're actually used to separate U235 from U238 - U235 makes up about .7% of any amount of Uranium found in nature; U238 makes up ~99%. U238 is no good for either nuclear weapons or nuclear power - it's cross-section for fission is too low - except that it can be bombarded with neutrons to create Plutonium. U235 has a much higher cross-section for fission and is therefore the desired isotope; however you need about 3% U235 enriched uranium for controlled reactions and ~80% for nuclear weapons - hence the reason the centrifuge separation plants are so large.