

## Re: regeneration

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.bio.evolution/2004-08/0165.html>

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**From:** Tim Tyler ([tim\\_at\\_tt1lock.org](mailto:tim_at_tt1lock.org))

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Date: Fri, 6 Aug 2004 18:23:21 +0000 (UTC)

Perplexed in Peoria <[jimmenegay@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimmenegay@sbcglobal.net)> wrote or quoted:

> "Tim Tyler" <[tim@tt1lock.org](mailto:tim@tt1lock.org)> wrote in message news:ceqv55\$2rjd\$1@darwin.ediacara.org...

>> Jim Menegay <[jimmenegay@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimmenegay@sbcglobal.net)> wrote or quoted:

>>> By "maximum potential of the Earth", do you mean the maximum sustainable

>>> human population? My guess would be 1-2 billion people, though others

>>> are less pessimistic.

>>>

>>> But, I have to ask, why do you wish to actually achieve the maximum?

>>> What is lost if we were to "run" the earth a little less close to

>>> the "red line" and only support half of the absolute maximum possible

>>> population of humans?

>>>

>> Questions about how many humans the planet can sustain for extended

>> periods are difficult to answer.

>>

>> [n\\_Growth.htm](#)

>> ...has the world's population rising to around 10 billion people by

>> 2150 and then levelling off - but 146 years is a long time, and

>> predictions on that sort of scale are necessarily quite speculative.

>>

>> I suspect that this graph represents an under-estimate - and that

>> substantial population growth will continue on the planet long after

>> that point.

>>

> Oh, I don't doubt that, purely in biological terms, the earth can provide

> food for as many as 20 billion people or more, and sustain this level

> for millenia. [...]

By which time, our gravity well will probably be seen as a trivial barrier, our ecosystem will have graduated from this planet - and we'll have far more than our planet's resources at our disposal ;-)

> My lower figure of 1-2 billion was based more on sustainable use of other

> kinds of resources - particularly energy. We can't support large populations

> at current levels of energy consumption usi