

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2012 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

William R. Fullerton

Project Number

J1505

Project Title

Mushroom Mania

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

My objective was to find the best place where chanterelle mushrooms will grow.

My hypothesis was: The best place to find Chanterelles is in a damp shaded area under oak trees with a lot of duff but not a lot of undergrowth.

Methods/Materials

First I selected potential locations based on research. Next I measured the area and listed the characteristics of each location. I would then make a thorough search of the area and gather all of the chanterelles. Then I would weigh them by each area and tabulate the findings in a log. I would repeat this process for each area 2 additional times at 1-week intervals. Once all of the collections were complete I calculated the densities of the mushrooms found at each location.

Results

Most of the chanterelles were found under oak trees, surprisingly however some were found under box elders and willow trees. The area that had the highest density was #2. It had little duff and all of the chanterelles were small. The area with the next highest density was #1, it had deep duff and large mushrooms. The area with the deepest duff had the largest mushrooms.

Conclusions/Discussion

My hypothesis was mainly correct. Most Chanterelles grow under oak trees in a damp environment without a lot of undergrowth. The amount duff does not affect the volume of chanterelles found but it does affect the size of the mushrooms; the shallower the duff, the smaller the mushrooms.

Summary Statement

My project was about finding out where chanterelles grow, where they grow the best and where they cannot be found.

Help Received

Father: advised on project and helped type, Interviewed on topic: Beth McGee, Dan Dan Geraci