

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2014 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

Nate J. Burrill

Project Number

J1902

Project Title

To Pee or Not to Pee?

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

The experiment was constructed to determine whether the concentration of urine used to treat grass affected the healthiness, in terms of height and color, of grass.

Methods/Materials

Sections of grass were treated daily with undiluted urine, a 1/4 dilution of urine, a 1/8 dilution of urine, a 1/16 dilution of urine, a 1/32 dilution of urine, or tap water. The height and color of the grass was measured once a week for four weeks.

Results

After three weeks, grass treated with a 1/8, 1/16, or 1/32 dilution of urine was the healthiest, being the tallest and the deepest shade of green. Grass treated with tap water was less healthy than grass treated with a 1/8, 1/16, or 1/32 dilution of urine, but it was not dead. Grass treated with undiluted urine or a 1/4 dilution of urine died after two and three weeks respectively.

Conclusions/Discussion

Treating grass with diluted urine will produce healthier grass than treating it with undiluted urine or tap water. These results show that human urine can be used as an effective fertilizer, which is increasingly useful given that California is in the midst of a devastating drought.

Summary Statement

I tested the effects of different concentrations urine on the height and color of grass.

Help Received

Father showed me how to use Excel and digital color meter; Parents proofread poster.