

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2004 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

Francesca O. Holland

Project Number

J1411

Project Title

Plants and Magnets

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

I was testing to see if marigolds grew faster with north side up magnets (repels the north of a compass), south side up magnets, or no magnets in their cups. My hypothesis was that the more intense magnetic field would affect their growth.

Methods/Materials

I planted three sets of marigolds in all, six north-up, six south-up, and six control in each set. Each plant was in a separate cup, and all were kept by the same window. Each plant was plantd 1/2 inch deep and given the same amount of water as the rest. The plants were measured and rotated daily. A stack of three magnets was placed in the bottom of each test cup. All were planted in plastic cups.

Results

The plants grown with the north-up magnets seemed to germinate faster, but the rater of growth seemed to be the same for all plants. The south-up seemed to germinate later than the other plants.

Conclusions/Discussion

The presence of a magnetic field stronger than the Earth seemed to have an effect on the germination period of plants, but a much larger scale project would be needed to verify the results.

Summary Statement

Testing the growth of plants grown with a magnetic field locally stronger than Earth's.

Help Received

Father helped draw the graphs, mother helped decorate the board.