

# CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2006 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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**Project Number** 

**J1609** 

**Project Title** 

**Sinister Sunflowers** 

#### **Abstract**

## **Objectives/Goals**

My objective was to determine how far plants should be grown from sunflowers in order for them to be safe from the sunflowers' allelopathic toxins.

## Methods/Materials

I planted two planter boxes, each with a small group of sunflowers at the end. Sunny Royal Viola flowers were planted in a line down the box. They were all given the same amount of water and sunlight. The plants were measured in small groups every few days.

## Results

The plants farthest away from the sunflowers grew to be the tallest, while the plants closest to the sunflowers either died and turned brown, or just did not grow.

#### **Conclusions/Discussion**

My results allowed me to determine that plants should be grown at least thirty centimeters away from sunflowers to be safe. Plants closer than this will die quickly.

# **Summary Statement**

My project is about the allelopathic powers of sunflowers, or the way that sunflowers poison plants through their roots.

## Help Received

My mom and dad helped me with my board and experiment, and my mentor Robert Howry helped me form my experiment.