



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR  
2008 PROJECT SUMMARY**

<b>Name(s)</b> <b>Mikaila R. Ward</b>	<b>Project Number</b> <b>J1734</b>
<b>Project Title</b> <b>The King's River: Will Applying Compost from Native Trees Improve the Growth of Vegetation?</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Abstract</b></p> <p><b>Objectives/Goals</b> The objective is to determine if adding compost from native trees will improve the growth of vegetation along the banks of the King's River.</p> <p><b>Methods/Materials</b> Compost from three types of native trees were tested: Oak, Sycamore, and Ash. Twelve trials of each test variable were performed. The compost was planted in the soil. Radish seeds were used. In addition, a control with no leaves added was also tested. The plants were watered daily with 6ml. of water. Plant growth rate was measured over a fourteen day period.</p> <p><b>Results</b> Oak compost when added to the soil had the greatest growth rate average of 4.27 inches. Ash compost was second with an average of 3.15 inches. Sycamore compost averaged a growth rate of 2.66 inches followed by the control with no leaves added at 2.62 inches.</p> <p><b>Conclusions/Discussion</b> When comparing the growth rate of vegetation from applying compost from native trees that grow along the King's River, the Oak compost did the best out of all composts. Ash did second best. Sycamore barely passed the control. After my investigation, I learned that Oak and Ash composts are very good for vegetation. In conclusion, the people who live along the banks of the King's River, or any river, should not throw away their leaves. Instead, they should put them along the banks of the river in which they live. This will help preserve fish habitats and the insect population that they thrive on.</p>	
<b>Summary Statement</b> Improving the vegetation along the banks of the King's River by applying the compost from native trees.	
<b>Help Received</b> Mother helped type report; used teacher's back yard to conduct experiment	