

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2012 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

Adi Shiloni

Project Number

J0523

Project Title

Healthy Leafy Greens and Chlorophyll

Objectives/Goals

Abstract

The title of my project is: Do Healthier Leaves Have More Chlorophyll? I will test the levels of chlorophyll in a few healthy leafy vegetables by extracting chlorophyll from each leaf. The purpose of this project is for me to see if chlorophyll level has anything to do with how healthy a leaf is.

Methods/Materials

In my study I researched which leafy vegetables are the healthiest. I tested different leafy vegetables including spinach, kale, iceberg lettuce, romaine lettuce, rainbow chard, broccoli leaf, and parsley, for the amount of chlorophyll in each leaf. I tested for the amount of chlorophyll using three different methods, by eye, by TLC, and by a Nano drop. I used the same amount of alcohol for each leaf to make sure that the only thing I change each time is the leaf, which is the independent variable.

Results

My results showed that there is a correlation between the amount of chlorophyll in the leaves and how healthy they are. I saw that kale and rainbow chard that are the two healthiest leaves had the highest amount of chlorophyll. I also saw that iceberg lettuce which is known as one of the less healthier leaf had just a tiny bit of chlorophyll in it.

Conclusions/Discussion

The main conclusion from my experiment is that there is a correlation between the amount of chlorophyll in a leaf and its nutritional value. I proved my hypothesis correct because I said that healthier leaves have more chlorophyll and they did. If I were to do this project again I would also add frozen leafy vegetables to see if when you freeze a vegetable does it change the amount of chlorophyll in it and does it change how healthy a leaf is. I would also add a few more vegetables to collect even more comprehensive data.

Summary Statement

Do healthier leaves have more chlorophyll.

Help Received

Grandmother helped use lab equiptment at a biotech company PeproTech; Father helped with board.