



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2016 PROJECT SUMMARY**

Name(s) Rebecca E. Starr	Project Number J1031
Project Title During Drought Mulch Matters	
<p style="text-align: center;">Abstract</p> <p>Objectives/Goals The object of this study was to determine which mulch, black plastic, hay, bark nuggets or plain soil retained more water over a six day period.</p> <p>Methods/Materials 4 ceramic stakes, 4 wine bottles, black plastic, hay, bark nuggets, plain soil, 2 garden beds. Wine bottles filled with 800ml of water, marked with 50ml increments, over six days measurements were taken of how much water was used by each mulch.</p> <p>Results The bark nuggets used the least amount of water, after the six day test period, also showing it had the lowest evaporation rate.</p> <p>Conclusions/Discussion The best mulch to use in a garden to prevent water waste is bark nuggets. Landscape owners and farmers will be able to save water by using the mulch that retains the largest amount of moisture.</p>	
Summary Statement I tested black plastic, hay, bark nuggets and plain soil to see which one would retain the most water.	
Help Received I set up and gathered results for this experiment myself. My science teacher, Mr Semple reviewed my procedure and results.	