

Courtlyn Carpenter

Junior Division Environmental Sciences

Using Evapotranspiration Covers To Reduce Groundwater Pollution

Groundwater pollution occurs when precipitation leaches through the surface of landfills. Plants can be used to reduce the volume of contaminated groundwater. To test this hypothesis, soil and gravel were put into two identical containers with a hole drilled at one end. Plants were also placed into one of the containers. These containers were both placed at the same angle to collect water. The containers were watered and weighed periodically and tested for leakage. This experiment's purpose was to see if putting plants on the surface of landfills would reduce the amount of groundwater pollution occurring. This experiment went as planned. The container with no plants did lose the most water, and in fact the other container didn't lose any, which was better than planned. There were some mishaps throughout the project such as when the soil got saturated, and the container with no plants lost an incredible amount of water, making the collection cup overflow. This experiment proved that the volume of groundwater pollution occurring can be reduced by putting plants on the surface of landfills.