

**Ryan Ernst**

Junior Division Plant Sciences

*Possible Harms Of pH*

The purpose of my experiment was to find out how the pH level of water affects a Wisconsin Fast Plant's growth and development. I wanted to know this because I live in an agricultural area, my Dad runs a greenhouse, and I could relate it to my life. I wondered if there was more to keeping plants healthy besides just watering them. To perform my experiment I filled 25 film canisters with potting soil and planted 2 seeds into each one. I split up the canisters into groups of five and watered them every other day with their specific solutions. On day 5 I thinned the plants to one per film canister. After watering them, I measured them and recorded my observations. My control was distilled water, and my variables were the solutions containing the pH levels of 3, 5, 9, and 11. I learned that it is good to have a slight bit of acid in your water. A slight bit of alkaline isn't bad either. A strong amount of acid isn't good for a plant's growth and development. A neutral pH of 7 was okay for the plants but they didn't grow or develop as quickly. A strong amount of alkaline in water is definitely not good for a plant. My project was successful, but my hypothesis wasn't completely correct. I learned about the pH scale, acids and bases, and how they affect plant growth and development.