

Theo Kurtzer

Junior Division Plant Sciences

Goodness, Gracious, Great Balls Of Manure!!

The purpose of the researcher's project was to see what kinds of compost, fertilizers or manures, best work to help plants grow better and healthier. For the procedure, the researcher gathered 48 cups of the same size and placed organic soil in all of them to the same level. They were divided into seven groups of eight. Each group received .5 grams of their specific manure or fertilizer. Half the cups were planted with corn seeds and half with wheat seeds. The height of the plants were measured twice a week, and at the completion of the testing, the root mass, biomass, and photosynthesis rates were determined. The manure samples were also tested for nitrates and phosphates. The data shows that the corn did best with cow manure as a fertilizer. It had the most biomass with 8.3 grams. It also had the most growth of 28.1 cm. For corn's root mass, the fertilizer was the best with a mass of 8.8 grams. Next for root mass was goat with a mass of 7.5 grams. With wheat, horse did the best with a biomass of 2.3 grams. For height, fertilizer was the best with an average height of 17.6 cm. In root mass, the best was goat with a mass of 3.4 grams. The researcher believes these manures and fertilizers increased the growth and health of the plant because of their high nitrate and phosphate levels. Overall, the researcher would suggest using cow manure on corn and either horse or goat manure on wheat.