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Don't Eat the Yellow Snow

In this project I am sampling snow from twelve different locations around Durango, Colorado to see if bacteria is present in the snow. I originally thought that bacteria could not survive in snow because it is too cold. However, my initial research showed that a bacteria called pseudomonas syringea exists in nature and helps snowflakes form. This bacteria is not harmful to humans but is to plants. I used sterile agar media petri dishes to culture possible bacterial colonies from my samples. I found different levels of bacterial growth from different areas. I found that areas near roads and where people and animals walked allot had more levels of bacterial growth. I found that fresh newly fallen snow away from people or animals had very little bacterial growth. I compared the colonies I grew with photos of pseudomonas syringea and found them to be similar.