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Biology 120

Materials and Methods for Fast Plants

This experiment was conducted during October 2018 at Longwood University in the Chichester Science building. Four Styrofoam containers each containing 4 wells were used to grow the Fast Plants. Each well had a small diamond-shaped paper wick placed in the bottom before soil was added to help with watering. For each container, a watering system was set up. A separate plastic container containing tap water with a lid covered with a felt mat was placed under each Styrofoam container in order for the plants to self-water. The water would travel up the felt, to the wicks, then finally the plants. Each cell had soil, three fertilizer pellets and three seeds. To test Fast Plant growth under different conditions, two different types of light were tested. One experimental type of light source had an incandescent bulb, while the other bulb on a second lamp was fluorescent. As a control, a grow lamp was used. Each lamp had one Styrofoam container with 4 plants. Five days after planting, the plants were pruned so that only one plant would grow in each well. Water in the plastic container was replenished each week for the duration of the experiment. Plants were kept in the different lights for 24 hours every day for 4 weeks. Each week, data for the plants' height from the top of the soil to the highest point on the plant, the color according to the Globe color chart, and number of leaves were collected and recorded.