

Plant Project - Extra Credit

Seeds and a pot with soil were given to each student to grow and take care as an extra credit project.

Keeping Track of Things:

1. Keep a journal that records the DEVELOPMENT, growth, flowering, and (hopefully not) the death of your plant.
2. Your plant is a mystery plant, but later on you can find out what it is. Once you know its identity, write an introduction and research its scientific name, history, human uses, ecological importance, etc.
3. The longer you keep your plant alive this semester, the better your journal project will turn out. If you hand in a journal that simply states 'plant died on week 2', then you won't get any points! Journal should be about 8-15 pages long, including drawings, diagrams, pictures and/or graphs.
4. Be creative! Make sure you take good notes every week (or better, twice a week!). Type out your notes on a computer word document. Make drawings of your plant at different stages of development, and label or color your diagrams. **ONLY TYPED** and printed papers will be accepted – NO handwritten journals please!

Accurate Observations:

1. Keen observation is the key to successful science explorations. Twice a week, observe your plant and make notes on plant characteristics such as differences in height (how tall is your plant at day 8; day 10 etc.), leaf shape (what different leaf shapes occur), leaf color, and number of flowers (if any). Dissect, draw and/or label the seeds, seedlings, leaves, apical meristems, roots and/or flowers. Use terminology and apply concepts learned in class.

2. To organize your data, you can set up a small spreadsheet table recording some of the potential changes in these plant characteristics. You can use graphs to illustrate your paper (for examples growth height vs. time; or leaf # vs. time, etc.)

3. Make notes on potential problems you encounter (yellowing leaves, wilting, insect attack, etc) and solutions you tried to reverse these life-threatening problems.

4. Did any of the solutions tried actually reverse the problem? Even if there are no apparent problems, is there some change that may make the plant grow better?

5. Try different experiments and treatments on your plant. For example, do you observe any phototropism (growth towards the light source)?

6. Be sure to incorporate pictures, drawings or graphs to clarify observations described in the text of your journal. Make sure pictures include data interpretation. Remember to TYPE all your information – no handwritten journals accepted!

Communicating your observations:

1. Explanation is essential. Make sure you type your observations or findings in your journal along with any pictures, drawings, graphs or tables that you might have.

Extra Credit Grade Points:

1. 15 points of extra credit will be based upon the quality and accuracy of your final plant journal project. Remember: the 15 points can make a big difference in your final grade (this extra-credit project can turn a B+ into an A-).

2. All completed journals are due in class on Thursday May 6, 2004.

3. See syllabus for course grade details.