Excavating For Nitrogen by Rafi Martinez, Randy Gonzalez, Diosnery Paulino, & Christopher Ortiz



Initial Observation: Nitrogen in the Soil - Graph Nitrogen Levels in Tree Pit Soil December 2: 2008



Initial Research

•Atmospheric nitrogen combines with hydrogen to form ammonia (NH3).

•Bacteria in the soil combine ammonia with oxygen.

- •Ammonia changes to nitrites.
- •Bacteria in soil convert nitrites to nitrates.
- •Plants absorb nitrates and grow.

Soil Fertility (Nitrogen

Directly responsible for producing leaf growth and green leaves.
Deficiency causes yellow leaves and stunted growth.

•Too much causes overabundant foliage with delayed flowering; the plant becomes subject to disease and its fruit is of poor quality.

Hypothesis

A plant with more soil can convert and use higher concentrations of ammonia.

Experiment

4 plants with different sized pots.
Test the soil for nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium first.
Every two days, add some

ammonia mixed with water. •For 3 weeks.

•Everyday check the plants development.

•Test the soil for nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium in the end.

Predictions

•Every mineral in the plants will deplete except for nitrogen.

•Some plants leaves will become more green and grow, and some plants might not flower.