

CWSF 2017 - Regina, Saskatchewan



Makenna Clark

Don't Go Green

Challenge: Environment

Category: Junior

Region: Regina

City: Regina, SK

School: École St. Mary

Abstract: Blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) blooms can have devastating effects on the ecosystem. Local theories suggest an over-abundance of nutrients from farming fertilizers are the main culprit. This project attempted to test this theory and explore environmentally-friendly ways to reduce algae growth. Using two experiments, phosphorus and nitrogen were found to contribute to algae growth. Alum was the more environmentally-friendly option for effectively reducing algae growth.

Biography

I am a grade 8 French Immersion student at École St. Mary in Regina. I really enjoy school, particularly Math, English and Science. Outside of school, I play hockey, softball and volleyball. I've been fortunate in my sports to have won several tournaments, including an international hockey tournament (Wickfest run by Hayley Wickenheiser). During the summer, I like to spend time at our cabin on Lake Katepwa. After a few days of really hot weather, the lake turns green - the algae blooms have returned! Upon doing further research, I found that algae growth can be a problem not just for our lakes but also our water supply and so I wanted to try to find a safe way to reduce algae. I learned a lot from doing this project and found a number of things I can do to improve it. In future investigations, I want to get my algae sample during the summer so that it contains blue-green algae, and run multiple versions of the experiment to validate the results. For students thinking about doing a project, my advice is to find a mentor ? there are lots of experts out there willing to share their knowledge.

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