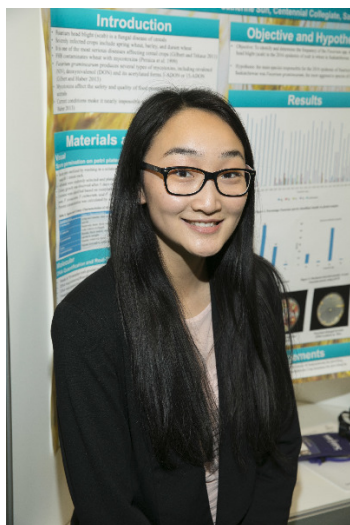


CWSF 2017 - Regina, Saskatchewan



Catherine Sun

Identification of Fusarium species associated with Fusarium head blight of wheat

Challenge: Resources

Category: Senior

Region: Saskatoon

City: Saskatoon, SK

School: Centennial Collegiate

Abstract: This project studies the species of fusarium head blight (FHB) that are associated with the 2016 epidemic of FHB in wheat in Saskatchewan. The disease causes reduced grain quality and severe yield loss, resulting in less wheat available to consume or sell. It is important to identify the cause in order to find how we can prevent fusarium head blight in the future.

Biography

I'm a grade 11 student at Centennial Collegiate in Saskatoon, SK. At school, I participate in yearbook club, math club, synchrotron club, and student representative council. Outside of school, I am involved in science fairs, work as an instructor at Mathnasium Saskatoon, and partake in the Junior Achievement company program as the president of my company. My interests and hobbies include drawing, reading, and walking my dog. My project was developed when I was discussing with my mentors, Prof. Randy Kutcher and Mr. Gursahib Singh, about the epidemic of fusarium head blight (FHB) that happened last year. We worked on developing an idea as the disease causes a great deal of yield loss which is damaging to Saskatchewan's massive agriculture industry. We decided to investigate the species of FHB that caused the epidemic since that would allow further research into what caused the disease to spread so rapidly, analysis of the mycotoxins in the wheat, ways to control the disease, and/or if the disease has evolved. My advice for students thinking about a project is to go for it! It seems challenging at first, but it's a really cool way to explore new ideas and learn more about science.

