

Aryan Gandhi & Peyton Streu
Blooming Algae

The purpose of our project, Blooming Algae, is to see whether algae grows faster in more acidic or alkaline water versus natural water with no added ingredients. We made this possible by adding different amounts of bleach to make the water more alkaline and different amounts of vinegar to make the water more acidic. The reason behind this project is that we wanted to see how different chemicals in fresh water around the world affect the growth of algae. Our natural water came from the North Pond in Silverthorne, Colorado. This location was chosen because it has a natural water source. The water was separated into five containers of equal volume. One of the containers was kept natural as a control. Two of the other containers had added bleach in varying amounts. The last two contained added vinegar in varying amounts. The pH of each was recorded along with the amount of algae growth. We found that the pH that grew algae the best was alkaline. These results can be tied to human impact because algae and humans are both living organisms. This means that if algae can grow better in a specific type of water, we would expect this to be more beneficial to humans as well.