**Building Algal Blooms**

***Materials***:

* Algal culture
* Water
* 250-500mL clear glass or plastic containers
* Aluminum foil
* Droppers or pipettes
* Markers and labels
* Liquid plant fertilizer/nutrients

***Procedures*:**

1. Take two plastic containers.
2. Fill each one quarter way full with water.
3. Add a full pipette of algal culture to each container.
4. Screw on the tops of the containers.
5. Wrap **one** of the containers in foil so that no light can get through to the algae.
6. Next, we are going to see the effects of liquid fertilizer on algae. Make a hypothesis-what do you think will happen?
7. Fill your third container one quarter way full with water.
8. Add a full pipette of algal culture to the container.
9. Add three drops of nutrient to the container.
10. Screw on the top of the container.
11. Use your marker and labels to label the containers “algae”, “foil”, and “fertilizer”.
12. Place all containers in a sunny window where they can receive equal amounts of light and they can be exposed to the same temperatures.
13. Over 1-2 weeks, make observations. What will you measure?
14. Write up the observations and decide whether or not the hypotheses were supported.
15. Disposing of Your Bloom: After the experiment, don’t throw your algal bloom down the drain. That will further perpetuate the problem!
    1. Instead, microwave your algae until boiling (this doesn’t contaminate your microwave, but causes a bad smell). When cool, pour down the drain.
    2. Or (with a parent or guardian’s help), add about a tablespoon of bleach. Let this sit overnight, before pouring the drain and flushing with plenty of water.