Using 'High-Yield Contests' as an Instructional Tool in Undergraduate Education. (A01-purcell135331-Oral)

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Abstract:

Students in Advanced Crop Science (AGRN 4013), a senior 'capstone' course for Crop Management majors, were assigned to different groups consisting of four or five members each. The groups competed for top awards in three different yield contests using a type of Brassica rapa (canola). The strain of Brassica, commercially known as Wisconsin Fast Plants, was selected for class use because of its extremely short life cycle of 40 days. Plants were maintained in a growth chamber for the entire growth period. This project was assigned 60 points out of a total of 500 points for the class. Points were awarded for the highest yield, a written report, and an oral presentation for each group. The group with the highest composite score for the three yield contests was awarded first prize. The three separate yield contest sections were; maximum yield per pot, maximum yield per plant, and maximum water use efficiency per plant. Students were expected to devise planting strategies and sound management inputs and work syneristically in groups with organized and listed responsibilities. A summary of their strategies and subsequent results will be presented along with and evaluation of the effectiveness of 'High Yield Contests as an instructional tool

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