

### **Abstract for Ann's Project**

This project set out to prove if adding a microbial soil enhancer would increase the number and quality of jalapeno peppers. The purpose was to try to find a way to enhance fruit or vegetable production in container gardens due to the fact that some people now live in smaller spaces but would like to have fresh produce that they have grown. Jalapeno peppers were chosen because they are used in cooking by many people, produce fruit in a reasonable time for testing and are easy to grow.

Ten plants in 4 different flats were used. Flat 1 was the control, Flat 2 had 10% soil enhancer, Flat 3 20% and Flat 4 30% (the recommended amount). Different percentages were used to see if a smaller amount would work thus offsetting cost. The control, Flat 1 produced 77 peppers, Flat 2 produced 89, Flat 3 had 107 and Flat 4 had 151. A scale of 1 (poor) to 4(best) was used to judge the quality of the peppers. Flat 1, the control had an average quality 2.2, Flat 2 was 2.6, Flat 3 was 3.4 and Flat 4 was 4. The data supports that 30% soil enhancer will produce more peppers and better-quality peppers. This will be of use to gardeners especially those that have to rely on container gardening.