Biomass Contest

Object :

To grow a plant from a designated seed in a container of designated volume that exhibits the highest quality.

Rules :

All plants are required to be in the contest room by 10 am.

Late arrivals will not be judged.

Contestants should return to pick up their plant no later than 12:15 pm.

Contestants must use the designated seed. A cutting may not be used. The seed for the Year 2005 is the **Petunia** .

Germination or presoaking must begin on or after January 3, 2005.

Any growing media including hydroponics is acceptable.

The container must have a volume of no greater than one liter.

Each plant must be submitted in its container.

Each plant must be submitted with a written journal summarizing all conditions in germination and growth, such as lighting, soil fertilizer, temperature, photo period, seed variety, company that packaged the seeds, etc.

Each contestant may submit only one plant.

Scoring :

Plants will be judged on the basis of their quality. Criteria will include plant size, foliage color and density, characteristic shape and balance, number and quality of blossoms or fruit and root mass (See attached rubric.)

Comments :

2 liter bottles cut in half make good pots.

Multiple seeds can be grown to start but only one plant will be judged.

References :

Sunset Western Garden Book

Lilly Miller Seeds, Chas. H. Lilly, Portland, OR 97283

Ed Hume Seeds, P.O. Box 1450, Kent, WA 98035-3450

Burpee, Attn. Order Dept. 300 Park Avenue, Warminster, PA 18991-0001;

Phone - 1-800-888-1447; www.burpee.com

Usborne's Science with Plants, ISBN 0-7460-09763

SIZE	small	1	2	3	4	5	large
SYMMETRY	irregular	1	2	3	4	5	symmetrical
BLOSSOMS OR FLOWER BUDS	few	1	2	3	4	5	many
FLOWERS	small, irregular, faded	1	2	3	4	5	large, regular, bright
FOLIAGE DENSITY	thin	1	2	3	4	5	bushy, highly branched
FOLIAGE COLOR	yellow	1	2	3	4	5	bright green
PEST DAMAGE	significant	1	2	3	4	5	no evidence
ROOTS	thin, not visible at edge	1	2	3	4	5	profuse, visible around perimeter of the pot

Many varieties of plant seeds are sold. Be sure to specify which variety was used in your journal and on your score sheet.

Note to judges: Use journal as tie breaker.

WSTA BIOMASS CONTEST

Name _____ Grade _____

School _____

Plant Variety _____

Seed Company (or other source) _____

JUDGING CRITERIA *

TOTAL SCORE _____

* Criteria will be measured against the ideal plant according to the variety standards .
Judges may use journal as tie-breaker.