

Sustainable Mushroom Cultivation on Buffelgrass - Progress Report

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Project Manager Name

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Requested Metrics

- 1) # of people in the core project team involved in planning and execution of the project: 3 students
- 2) # of estimated cumulative hours spent on this project: 25 hrs
- 3) # of partnerships or collaborations developed between the project team and other UArizona administrative units, student groups, community, or other groups/organizations: 2 collaborations (CEAC Mycology lab and Campus Pantry)
- 4) Amount of food donated to campus pantry in lbs: 4.20 lbs
- 5) Weight of substrate (collected) to volume of mushroom: 0.39
- 6) Amount of volunteers/students involved in the demos: 11 stud

Project Accomplishments

So far, we have conducted the two major cultivation trials of growing mushrooms on buffelgrass. Thirteen bags have been prepared with a substrate mixture made up of master's mix and different concentrations of buffelgrass. These bags fruited to produced 4.20 lbs of mushrooms from a total of 10.86 lbs of buffelgrass between them, which have all been donated to the Campus Pantry. Therefore, we can assume that any weight of buffelgrass added to the substrate will yield 0.39 times that in weight of mushrooms on average.

Next Steps

The next steps will be to finish up harvesting some of the remaining bags to donate some more of those fresh gourmet mushrooms. We are also going to work on writing a short article about the project and our findings through this experience.

Challenges Faced

Some challenges we faced during the second cultivation trial was keeping the humidity in the grow tent as high as possible. As summer approaches, the air gets very dry and it becomes much harder to grow mushrooms in these drier conditions. Considering our lack of owning a humidifier, we simply tried our best to mist the tent heavily more often when possible. To mitigate the effects of this, we could invest in a humidifier or misting system if we decide to continue this project in coming years.

Project Support

CSF could support this project by spreading the word so more people know about what we are doing and can maybe get involved if interested, although we have been doing this as a club already.

Photo Link

Media/Links