Life Science data for 4/22 and 4/26

Hello everyone, I will start with information not related to our garden plants & flowers. Walking home from school on Saturday I saw a pair of male gold finches chasing each other: both were bright yellow. The last time I saw gold finches at the bird feeder was March 5th and the males were almost entirely brown. Therefore, the color change in the males occurred sometime between March 5th and April 25th (a period of 50 days). Do you remember why the male gold finches change color? A bright yellow bird in winter will be very noticeable and easy prey for cats or hawks). In the spring, a male gold finch has to attract a mate. If the male is brightly colored, it signifies good health and the female wants her offspring to be healthy. Finally, I was weeding around the school pond on Sunday morning and guess who came looking for a free meal? Larry the turtle is out of hibernation.

New data and an observation about the garden boxes will follow. What I want to point out is that over the last week, vegetable plants grew more laterally than vertically. All the plants have more leaves and have spread out versus growing significantly taller. This maybe evident in pictures that Ms. Tammy took Friday and will be posted on the school website. Also, remember that I composted food scraps in one box to see if this would help plants grow. When you look at the pictures Ms. Tammy took, I think it will be clear in the box I composted food scraps.

<u>April 22nd</u>

LEFT box: 4 **Sunflowers**. It seems that our 9.1 cm plant (4/19) died or something ate it. The heights of the remaining sunflowers are 11 cm (9 cm on 4/19), 8 cm (6 cm on 4/19), and 6 cm (2 cm on 4/19). **Tomato plant** heights are 15 cm, 12.5 cm, 14 cm, and 12 cm. **Greenbean** heights are 8 cm, 2.3 cm (no change), and 5.1 cm.

Watermelon heights are 8.1 cm, 9.2 cm, 9.1 cm, and 7.4 cm. N**asturtium** heights are 9.6 cm, 12.8 cm, and 7 cm. Notice how the final plant's height changed from 3 cm to 7 cm in a matter of days.

RIGHT box: Still just 1 **sunflower seed** has sprouted and the height is 8.8 cm. **Tomato plant** heights are 9.5 cm, 9.5 cm, and 8.2 cm. Two more **greenbean** seeds had sprouted. The first that sprouted has a height of 2.5 cm and the new ones have heights of 2.5 cm and 3 cm. **Watermelon** heights are 12 cm (no change), 8.8 cm, and 9.6 cm (no change in heights). The lone **basil plant** is 1 cm. The **nasturtium** heights are 6.9 cm, 4 cm, and 6.5 cm.

April 26th

LEFT box: 4 S**unflowers**. The heights are 14.2 cm, 10.9 cm, and 10.5 cm. **Tomato plant** heights are 18.6 cm (THE WIDTH IS 21.5 Cm), 17.6 cm, 18 cm (THE WIDTH IS 20.6 cm), and 16 cm. **Greenbean** heights are 11.5 cm, 3.1 cm, and 7 cm. **Watermelon** heights are 8.1 cm (no change), 11.9 cm, 11 cm, and 8.2 cm. Watermelon plants now have 5–7 leaves. N**asturtium** heights are 13.1 cm, 16.1 cm, and 12.4 cm.

RIGHT box: A second **sunflower seed** had sprouted. The height of the first is 10.4 cm and the new one is 4.4 cm. **Tomato plant** heights are 12 cm (THE WIDTH IS 11 cm), 11 cm, and 8.2 cm (no change in height but THE WIDTH IS 7 cm). There are only two **Greenbean** plants, so one died or was eaten. The heights are 3 cm and 3 cm. **Watermelon** heights did not change: 12 cm, 8.8 cm, and 9.6 cm (However, the plants now have between 4–6 leaves). The lone **basil plant** is 1 cm (no change). The **nasturtium** heights are 8 cm, 7.2 cm, and 9.1 cm.

Please record the new data in your notebooks.