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**Nebraska Remote Researchers: The Crop Root Microbiome in Your Backyard Project Summary**

My journey with the crops started on June 16, 2020, when I prepared a 10x10 ft plot and planted the seedlings. I dug my plot with a shovel to really mix the soil and then go over it with a garden tiller. My teacher, Mrs. Goracke, assisted me with this process. My plot had direct sunlight all day, and I watered my plot almost every day or just when it needed it. All but six of my plants germinated, and none of the remaining plants died after germination.

The sampling and plating went well. Remi Christensen and Mrs. Goracke assisted me with this process. I think it took a little over five hours to complete, but I learned so much during the process. The rhizosphere sampling was straightforward, which was nice. It was a little bit difficult to dig up the plants. My plants were more developed and more substantial compared to some of the other participant’s plants. I think that maybe since my plants were out of the shade and in sunlight all day, it affected their growth. We managed to dig them up though. The plating was a lot of work, but also very interesting. There were many steps to the process, but once I got the hang of it, it went fast.

I have never done anything similar to this experiment before. I have taken measurements of plants from my biology and horticulture class. I enjoyed showing family and friends my plot and telling them that “I planted and took care of that.” Being a part of this experiment was out of my comfort zone, but I am so glad that I did it. I learned how to experiment off of a Zoom call, which is crazy to say. I also gained a better understanding of how to use a pipet. I had never used one before, so I was very relieved that there was a tutorial video on how to use it. The step-by-step instructions very helpful, and I had them out when extracting the roots and while plating. I did have two of my plates break when I got them. Overall, I had a great time participating with The Crop Root Microbiome in Your Backyard Project.