

Sorting Biomass and Biofuel Crops Activities

Overview: The first activity is a sorting activity in which students learn about the differences between organic, inorganic, and man-made materials. The second activity asks students to place crops into a Venn diagram to learn the difference between biofuel crops and food crops.

Biomass Activity Implementation: Cut out the list materials by cutting on the dotted lines and put them in a bowl. Use a projector to display the organic, inorganic, and man-made baskets on the wall. Have students take turns drawing a material and taping it to the board in the bucket they think it should go in. At the end of the activity, be sure to debrief students on the differences between organic and inorganic. Also stress the differences between organic and man-made.

Crop Sorting Activity Implementation: As in the previous activity, cut out the words and place them in a bowl. Project the Venn diagram on the board. Have students take turns drawing a crop and placing it on the Venn diagram. This activity should inform students about what kinds of biomass can be used to make liquid fuels. They should also realize that some crops could be used for both food and fuel. This activity is a great lead-in to a discussion of the pros and cons associated with growing each biofuel crop listed.

Firewood

Pop Can

Blood

Cotton

iPhone

Polyester

Steak

Rubber

Glass

Down

Eggs

Hair

Sand

Manure

Rocks

Water

Tin Foil

Clay

Paper Towels

Milk

Diamond

Graphite

Gold

Salt

Olive Oil

BIOMASS SORTING

ORGANIC

INORGANIC

MAN-MADE

Corn

Wheat

Soybeans

Switchgrass

Algae

Pine Trees

Miscanthus

Poplar

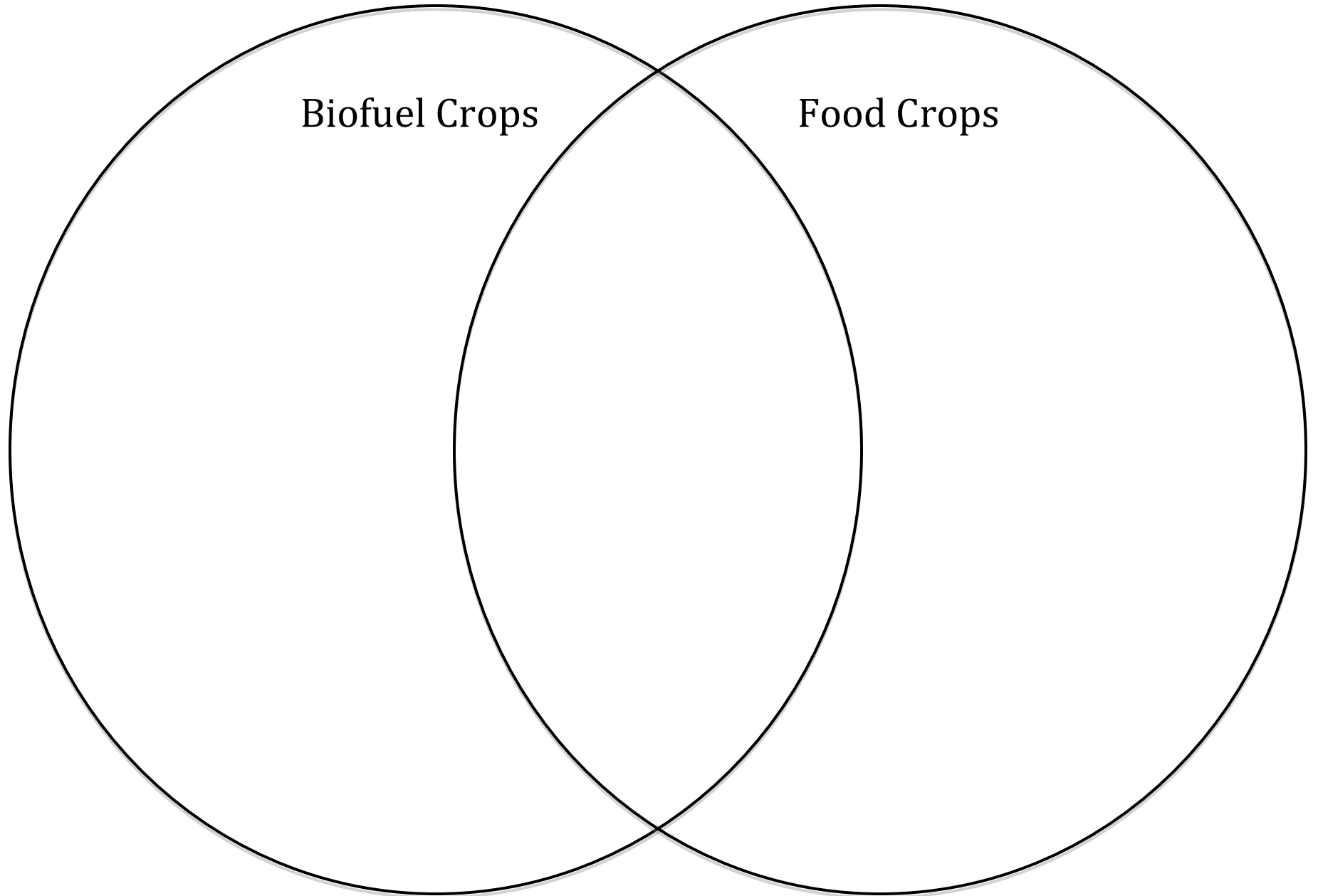
Hay

Sweet Corn

Apples

Tomatoes

CROP SORTING



Biofuel Crops

Food Crops