

## THE ALLELOPATHIC POTENTIAL OF UMBELIFERAE SEEDS UPON GERMINATION OF LETTUCE

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### ABSTRACT

*Allelopaty is a mechanism to achieve a competitive edge among plant species growing in close proximity to one another. It has been shown that chemicals found within leaf and seed oils have allelopathic effects on germination.*

*Lettuce seed germination studies were conducted to test the allelopathic potential of Umbeliferae seeds. The percent germination, root length and root hair length were measured in each assay.*

*The effect of the individual components of the essential oils of the seeds were also assayed. The Umbeliferae seeds: fennel, anise and coriander were found to inhibit germination of lettuce at various seed densities.*

**Key words:** *allelopaty, lettuce, essential oil.*