INTRODUCTION

- Campus community garden, the R’Garden, provides food and learning space for UCR and the local community.
- R’Garden aims to promote sustainable farming practices such as hedgerows.
- Hedgerows are rows of trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses adjacent to crop systems.
- Hedgerows provide numerous benefits, including enhanced weed control, erosion control, and supporting beneficial insects such as pollinators and natural enemies of pest insects.
- Installation of a hedgerow could provide platform to engage public.

PROJECT SUMMARY

- The UCR R’Garden provides food production and learning space to the Riverside community.
- We installed a 150ft hedgerow containing >20 native California plant species to support beneficial insects such as pollinators and natural enemies of crop pests.
- Hedgerow provides a platform to enhance local outreach and on-campus research on sustainable practices in farming.

RESULTS

- Observed an increase abundance of beneficial insects, including native pollinators and predators.
- Held a public workshop and activities on IPM, hedgerow management, and insect ecology.
- Workshops included >25 attendees.

FUTURE GOALS

- Expand on-farm public outreach and extension events at R’Garden.
- Host student-led research projects in sustainable food production.
- Monitor hedgerow benefits, including pollinator and natural enemy abundance.
- Identify most effective plant species to deliver beneficial services.

MATERIALS & METHODS

- Plants were selected using manual “Hedgerows for California Agriculture”.
- 150ft hedgerow with >20 plant species.
- Drought tolerant, California native plants:
  - Coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis)
  - Buckwheat (Eriogonum fasciculatum)
  - Wild rose (Rosa californica)
  - Desert mallow (Sphaeralcea ambigua)
  - Yarrow (Achillea millefolium)
  - Sage (Salvia sp.)
  - Manzanita (Arctostaphylos densiflora)
  - Elderberry (Sambucus Mexicana)
  - Phacelia (Phacelia grandiflora)
  - California lilac (Ceanothus thyrsiflorus)

REFERENCES


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS