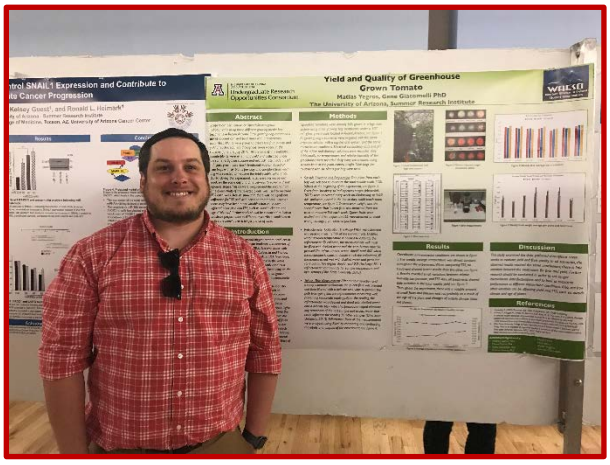
STUDENT SUCCESS

Matias Yegros – Class of 2019
Bachelor of Science, Sustainable Plant Systems



My name is Matias Yegros and my field of study is sustainable plant systems with emphasis in controlled environment agriculture. I was selected to participate in the Summer Research Institute and I was paired with Dr. Gene Giacomelli to work on yield and quality of greenhouse grown tomatoes. The research consisted in taking weekly °Brix (Total Soluble Solids) and yield measurements of selected tomato plants. Tomato plants (Lycopersicon esculentum cv. Speedella) were grown hydroponically using three growing media bags treatments in Tucson, Arizona under a 107 m^2 glass greenhouse. Fruits were harvested every week on the same day and time. Trusses were weighed to measure yield and the second fruit (queen fruit) was used to measure total soluble solids (TSS). The purpose of the experiment was to compare TSS and yield to relative humidity, air temperature, and growing media bag treatment. Results showed that there was no significant difference for TSS and yield between treatments. The experiment lasted seven weeks and a further study should be conducted to see longer data variation and performance. This was a lifetime opportunity to learn how research is done, particularly because I want to go to graduate school. Also, it was a unique opportunity to bond and know a professor. Students must take advantage of the opportunities the university provides. There are a lot of opportunities for undergraduate research, students just need to look and ask.

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