



Estuary LIVE 2003 – A Visit to the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary

## A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: Where Do Black Mangroves Grow Best?

Sometimes scientists must use their power of observation to help solve problems and answer questions. Observations, coupled with research, can help answer many important questions and solve many problems.

In the photograph below, you see students from Montegut Middle School planting **black mangrove** seedlings along the back canal at Elmer's Island as part of the Coastal Roots Project. These black mangroves are tough plants that help stabilize the sand and soil in which they grow. One of the things the Coastal Roots Project wants to know is where to plant black mangrove seedlings so that the most seedlings will survive.



Read about black mangrove plants at the Coastal Roots Project website:  
[http://www.lamer.lsu.edu/projects/coastalroots/pdf/Learning\\_about\\_black\\_mangrove.pdf](http://www.lamer.lsu.edu/projects/coastalroots/pdf/Learning_about_black_mangrove.pdf)

Your job is to **propose a strategy or experiment to identify the best location** (relationship to tides, nearness to other plants, nearness to water, etc.) for students to plant black mangrove seedlings. Several of the plants have been circled in the picture so that you can tell where they've been planted.

- What kinds of information would you need to know in order to make a recommendation of where the black mangrove plants should be planted?
- Based on your research and the photo above, what **experiment** would you recommend to identify the best location in which to plant black mangrove seedlings?