

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Kennedy Space Center
Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899



Reply to Attn of:

September 17, 2015

UB-A

Dear Fairchild Challenge Participants,

Our team at NASA's Kennedy Space Center would like to welcome you to explore the Fairchild Challenge with activities focused on helping NASA advance space plant science for humans as we journey beyond Earth. We are thrilled that you selected the NASA challenges because we need your creative ideas to help us discover new plants to grow and the methods by which to grow them. Feeding people as we leave Earth and venture to Mars is a huge endeavor for NASA and your students will be the scientists and engineers helping us to meet this challenge. The Veggie chamber on the International Space Station is the first NASA space garden, but this is just the beginning of food production for the crew. In the near term we want to add many new crops that the astronauts can grow and eat without cooking. As we embark from the International Space Station out toward Mars there may be some simple methods for cooking and astronauts can grow and eat other types of crops and more complicated dishes. Future astronauts may get to eat the crops you test or the dishes you design as they sit down to dinner on Mars. Thank you for helping us to move forward in this great adventure and welcome to the NASA family!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gioia D. Massa".

Dr. Gioia Massa

Trent Smith

Dr. Wanda Jones

Dr. Lester Morales

Dr. Raymond Wheeler

Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899