

Plant Pests: Fungal Diseases

Disease

plant pathogens which cause harm to plants

Living Agents

organisms such as fungi, bacteria and viruses

Non-living Agents

non-living organisms such as weather conditions, air pollution and toxic chemicals

Pathogens

disease producing agents which cause harm to other organisms

Microorganisms

single-celled organisms including viruses, fungi and bacteria

Fungi

taxonomic kingdom which includes yeast, molds and smuts

Bacteria

single celled or non-cellular microorganisms which lack chlorophyll and reproduce by fission

Viruses

small, infectious particles composed of a protein coat and a nucleic acid

Mold

fungus which produce a growth on the surface of damp and decaying organic matter

Bacterial Diseases

diseases in plants caused by bacteria

Fungicides

any agent which destroys or prevents the growth of fungi

Stomata

small openings on the surface of leaves which allow for gases and water to pass in and out of leaves

Blight

cause discoloration, wilting and death in plants

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Wilting

process of plants drooping or shriveling due to lack of water

Nucleic Acids

groups of macromolecules which carry genetic information to control all cell functions; in the form of DNA and various forms of RNA

Cankers

fungal disease mostly on woody plants which causes damage to the bark

Petiole

smaller stem which attaches a leaf to the main stem

Crop Rotation

practice of growing different crops on the same land over a period of several growing seasons; aids in insect control and preservation of soil quality; example: growing corn for two years, then switching to soybeans on the same land

Stubble

stalk of a plant left in the ground after harvest

Cover Crop

plants which are planted not for harvesting purposes, but to control soil erosion and weeds, as well as improve soil quality

Spores

single celled reproductive structure of non-flowering plants, fungi and bacteria which develop into a new individual without sexual fusion

Crown

where the stem of plant meets the roots

Germination

process of a seed sprouting and beginning to grow

Volunteer Plants

plants which are not deliberately planted; differ from a weed in that they can be encouraged to grow and not compete with the intended crop

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Drip Irrigation

method of irrigation which distributes water to plants through small tubes or pipes

Mulch

consists of organic material which covers the soil surface to retain moisture and enhance soil conditions

Pollination

transfer of pollen from the anther of one flower to the stigma of a flower by insects or natural forces such as wind or rain

Node

area of a stem which holds buds which grow into one or more leaves

Xylem

vascular tissue in plants which transports water and nutrients up the plant from the roots

Defoliation

loss of leaves

Biofungicide

naturally occurring substances and microorganisms which control plant diseases

Top Dress

process of adding a fine layer of soil to a lawn to gradually improve the quality of the soil

Aerate

process of puncturing small holes in the ground to reduce soil compaction and pore space