

Plant Pathologists

What do they do?

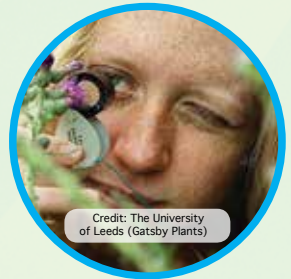
Plant pathologists study the microorganisms that cause plant disease and crop losses. Plant pathologists also study how plants respond to **pathogen attack** and what makes some plants better able to survive and recover from infection.

Why is this important?

Plant pathogens cause huge amounts of damage. Around **40% of our food and forestry crops** are lost because of the damage caused by plant pests and pathogens.

How?

By understanding how pathogens and plants interact, plant pathologists are able to: develop new ways to **protect crops** from pathogen attack; breed more **resistant plant** varieties; determine better ways of **growing and storing** plants after harvest and protect plants in **parks, gardens and woodlands**.



Credit: The University of Leeds (Gatsby Plants)



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Image Credit: National Cancer Institute 2451

Jobs from the lab to the field!

Plant pathologists work in a wide range of environments and for many different employers.

For example:

- **University** researchers working with the latest technology to study plant pathogens.
- **Government** advisers responding to disease outbreaks and preventing their spread.
- **Scientists working abroad** with farmers to develop best farming practices in developing countries.
- **Working for agrochemical companies** to develop new crop protection products.
- **Specialists** diagnosing plant and tree diseases in farms, gardens and forests.

Work experience

Are you interested in **work experience as a plant pathologist**? Please get in touch and we will help arrange a work placement for you.

Resources and more...

For plant pathology related resources and updates visit: www.bspp.org.uk/society/education. Please contact: outreach@bspp.org.uk if you have any questions and follow [@BS_PP](https://twitter.com/BS_PP) on Twitter for updates.

