

Save our Plants!



Why are plants important?

We depend on plants for nearly everything in our everyday lives, from the food we eat, and the clothes we wear to the vital oxygen we breathe.

Why are plant pathogens important?

Pathogens cause damage to all plants, from woodland trees to crops. They can also cause famine. In 1845 potato blight disease wiped out Ireland's staple potato crop. Of the Irish population (8 million) approximately 1 million people died of starvation and 1.5 million emigrated.

Today, around 40% of our food is lost due to damage by insect pests and plant pathogens.



How should we Save our Plants?

There are lots of different ways to control plant diseases. We've listed three of these:

- Pesticides
- Biological Control
- Genetically Modifying (GM) plants

In reality, growing crops is very complicated. Different control methods are chosen depending on many factors, such as: the type of plant, the local area, legislation, availability of resources, weather conditions and much more. Combinations of methods can also be used. For instance GM crops can still be sprayed with pesticides.



What damages plants?

Plants are damaged by the weather, feeding insects or by disease. Infectious plant diseases are caused mainly by fungi, bacteria, microscopic worms and viruses. Disease-causing organisms are called pathogens.



How do you think we should Save our Plants?