

PESTS AND DISEASES OF CROP CONT'D.

Prevention and Control of Pests.

Pests of crops can be prevented or controlled through the following methods:

1. Cultural control: this method involves the use of farm practices to prevent or control pests especially on the field. Examples of cultural control include: bush fallowing, crop rotation, change in the time of planting, regular weeding e.t.c.
2. Biological control: this involves the introduction of the natural enemies of pests to control or keep the pests population under control. Such enemies eat up or feed on these pests thereby reducing the population of the pests.
3. Chemical control: this method involves the use of chemicals called pesticides to control pests of crop plants. These chemicals which are in form of powder, liquid, granules and tablets are used on the insects by various methods like spraying or dusting seeds or plants to check pests.
4. Physical control: this involves the physical removal of pests by hand-picking of insects and larvae, setting traps to catch rodents, shooting rodents with gun, fencing round the farm with wire nets.

SOME DISEASES OF PLANT CROPS

	Name of crop	Name of disease	Causative organism	Mode of transmission	Effects on crop	Control
1	Maize	Corn smut	Fungus (Ustilago zeae)	The spore of the fungus are carried by air and deposited on leaves. The spore grow inside the crop tissues and attack fruits	Grains are covered with large mass of spores. The whole cob is also covered with black spores rendering the cob valueless.	1. Use of clean seeds in planting 2. Treat grains with fungicides before planting.

2	Groundnut	Rosette	Groundnut virus	Transmitted by an insect called aphid.	Leaves are closely packed and become wrinkled and mottled. leaves also curl and turn yellowish. Stunted growth and yield is poor.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Early planting. 2. Plant resistant varieties. 3. Uproot and burn infected plant.
3	Banana	Sigatoka(leaf spot)	Fungus	Spores are carried by wind and are deposited on the leaves. The deposited spores grow on the leaves.	Yellowish or brownish spots on the leaves. Spots later develop chlorotic areas on the leaf surface running parallel to the leaf veins. Low yield	Spray with copper fungicides
4	Cassava	Cassava mosaic	Virus	Transmitted by Bemisia fly which introduces the virus as it's sucks the sap of the plant.	Development of yellowish pale areas alternating with green patches on the leaves. Leaves are distorted resulting in stunted	Plant resistant varieties.

					growth. Plant yield is poor	
5	Cotton	Bacterial blight	Bacterium (Xanthomonas malvacearum)	Carried by wind or insects to the stomata of leaves. Water logging conditions also spread the disease.	Angular spots on leaves and branches. Boll rot causes low yield of cotton lint.	1. Plant resistant varieties. 2. Destroy all cotton debris during off season. 3. Dust seeds with agrosan 5W before planting.
6	Onion	Downymildew	Fungus	Spores are carried by wind and deposited on leaves.	White coating of fungus appear on leaves leading to the death of the leaves. Bulbs unable to develop	Dust with mixture of lime and sulphur or spray with sulphide of potassium.