

DEFINITION OF PESTS

Pests are organisms that cause damage to crop plants. They attack crops and decrease their production.

CLASSIFICATION OF PESTS.

Pests may be classified as plant or animal. Plant pests are referred to as weed.

WEEDS

-Weeds are undesirable plants that compete with crops for space and nutrient. They reduce crops yield and increase the costs of farming operation.eg carpet grass, tridax, goat weed, elephant grass, mimosa pudica.

CONTROL OF WEEDS

Weeds can be controlled mechanically by hand pulling, hoeing, tilling, burning and crop rotation.

Biologically by using the natural enemies of weeds.

Chemically by using chemicals such as; herbicides.

ANIMAL PESTS WITH EXAMPLES

The animal pests are grouped into two namely; vertebrates and invertebrates.

-Vertebrates pests include birds, such as; gulls, weaver birds, mammals, e.g. monkeys, man, rodents, e.g. rats, rabbit, bush rats and squirrels.

-Invertebrates pest include nematodes, e.g. eel worm, arthropods, locusts, grasshopper, coleoptera, Lepidoptera, larvae of butterflies.

GROUP OF PESTS

Pests are grouped based on the part of plants they feed on. Such as;

- Stem borers e.g. larvae of certain moths.
- Roots feeders e.g. yam beetle.
- Leaf feeders e.g. snail, locusts, caterpillar, and grasshopper.
- Young shoot feeders e.g. Aphids, mealy bug, scale insect.
- Fruit and seed feeders: e.g. white flies, fruit flies, moths and cotton stainer.