



# Teachers' notes

supporting classroom resources and activities

## Plant Pest Investigation

### Pre-reading activity 3:

## Healthy plant, sick plant

### Key biosecurity concepts

Students begin to recognise that plants are living things and can be impacted on by things in their environment.

### Resources

- an example of a healthy plant (could be in the school gardens or the classroom)
- 'healthy or sick - people' and 'healthy or sick - plants' worksheets (one copy per student)
- coloured pencils
- either 'sick plants' PowerPoint presentation or colour copies of 'sick plants'

### Lesson steps

1. In a circle, discuss with the students what they know about being 'sick' versus being 'healthy'. How do they know when they are sick? How can you tell if someone else is sick? Guide the students to discuss what it feels like to be sick and what they might look like when they are sick.
2. Have students complete the 'healthy or sick - people' worksheet.
3. Show students the example of a healthy plant. Discuss the appearance of the plant and guide students to think about if the plant looks healthy and why they think that. Discuss the colour and texture of the plant, whether it's standing up straight, and what its leaves look like.
4. Explain to students that plants can get sick just like people. Ask students to close their eyes and imagine what a sick plant might look like.
5. Complete the 'healthy or sick - plants' worksheet.
6. Show students the 'sick plants' resource.
7. Discuss the images of sick plants with students. Guide students to look at the following features:
  - spots, scab and rots
  - curled leaves, yellowed leaves, and
  - oozing from cankers
8. Take the students outside to look for sick plants. Can they find any plants with the symptoms they have seen?

### Extension activities:

1. Are there any symptoms students found in the garden that they could add to their 'healthy or sick - plants' worksheets?
2. Complete the sick plant find-a-word.
3. Invite a guest speaker to talk about sick plants – ask a farmer, gardener or nursery staff



# sick plants

## word search

Find each of these words in the word search puzzle. When you find a word, circle it. The first one has been done for you.

Don't forget to look up, down and across.

sick ✓	spot	rot
scab	curl	leaf
stem	colour	wilt



s	t	e	m	c	b	a	e	e
a	m	e	p	d	s	p	o	t
b	l	e	a	f	c	d	s	p
h	r	f	o	t	a	s	b	c
o	c	u	r	l	q	c	r	t
t	s	t	e	m	k	a	p	l
s	a	r	b	c	d	b	e	i
i	e	o	p	l	a	n	t	w
c	f	t	g	h	i	j	k	f
k	l	m	c	o	l	o	u	r