

## Plant pest and disease symptoms – Teacher

### Background information

Pests and diseases can cause harm to plants by damaging the leaves, flowers, fruit, seeds, bark and roots of plants. There are many different signs and symptoms that a plant is infected with a disease or being attacked by an invertebrate pest. These include; discolouration of leaves, holes in bark and leaves, moulds and mildews, spots, wilting and curled leaves. You can also look for visible invertebrates such as snails or insects living on and around the plants.

### Relevance to plant biosecurity

Surveillance is an activity undertaken by many state and federal agencies to capture a wide range of plant health information. Surveillance activities may include field observations, spore and insect trapping and mapping of plant pest and disease symptoms.

Being able to spot signs and symptoms of plant diseases and pests is the first step in protecting our plants from attack.

### Activities for students

- Take students on a tour of a farm, nursery or even the school grounds and look for symptoms of plant diseases and invertebrate pest attack.
- Use the online Pest and Diseases Image Library (PaDIL) to compare symptoms of different diseases. Do fungal diseases look different to bacterial diseases and viral diseases?
- Use the Plant Biosecurity Toolbox (an online tool) to view features and symptoms of specific plant pests and diseases.

### More information

<http://www.crcplantbiosecurity.com.au/program/surveillance>

<http://www.padil.gov.au>

<http://www.padil.gov.au/pbt/>

<http://www.organicguide.com/gardening/pests-insects/diseases-and-disease-control/>

[http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/pests\\_diseases\\_weeds.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/pests_diseases_weeds.htm)