

**CAREER
PATHS**

Agriculture

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Express Publishing

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stunted



wilted

browning

stippled

University of Jacksonville

Extension Office: Crop and Field Problems

Who we are

We are **agricultural advisors** with extensive experience in diagnosing crop and field problems. Our services are available to the general public.

What we can do for you - We can provide technical assistance in a variety of ways ranging from advice on crop selection to on-site and laboratory diagnosis.

On site diagnosis

Give us a call if your plants are **stippled**, **stunted**, **wilting**, or **browning**. We attempt to establish **symptom patterns** for small groups of plants. For larger problems, we attempt to identify the **field pattern**. Once this information has been gathered, we can usually provide a definitive diagnosis using our **symptomology keys**.

Laboratory diagnosis

When a symptomology key does not provide a definitive diagnosis, we usually turn to lab analyses. These tests can identify if a **symptom** is caused by **biotic** or **abiotic** factors.

How to contact us

If you'd like to get our advice, or set up an appointment for a field or crop diagnosis, please call 888-555-0505 or send an email to diagnosis@extension.ur.edu.

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Reading

2 Read the webpage from an agricultural extension office. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the purpose of the webpage?
 - A to explain a diagnostic technique
 - B to offer advice on diagnosing problems
 - C to give information about services
 - D to list common causes of crop problems
- 2 Who does the office provide assistance for?
 - A college students
 - B the general public
 - C laboratory scientists
 - D agriculture professors
- 3 Which service is NOT provided?
 - A advice on growing crops
 - B on-site diagnosis of problems
 - C laboratory analysis of samples
 - D preparation of new fields

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-5) with the definitions (A-E).

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1 ___ abiotic | 4 ___ symptomology key |
| 2 ___ brown | 5 ___ symptom |
| 3 ___ field pattern | |
| A to change color | |
| B non-living | |
| C a sign that indicates disease | |
| D a tool used to diagnose diseases | |
| E a sign of disease that occurs throughout an area | |

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What are some signs that crops are failing?
- 2 What are some ways to save failing crops?



Speaking

- 8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

What's the problem with your corn?

I noticed the tops of some of the plants were ...

And what happened next?

Student A: You are an agricultural advisor. Ask Student B about:

- crop problems
- symptoms
- changes

Student B: You are a farmer. Answer Student A's questions.

- 4 Fill in the blanks with the correct words and phrases from the word bank.

WORD BANK

biotic stunted wilt
stippled symptom pattern

- 1 _____ leaves are covered with spots.
 - 2 A _____ plant will be much smaller than others.
 - 3 Many crop problems have _____ causes.
 - 4 The crops started to _____ in the heat.
 - 5 Researchers are analyzing the _____.
- 5 Listen and read the webpage from an agricultural extension office again. What happens when a symptomology key doesn't provide a definite diagnosis?

Listening

- 6 Listen to a conversation between an agricultural advisor and a farmer. Check (✓) the symptoms of the farmer's corn.

- 1 wilting
- 2 drying out
- 3 browning tops
- 4 blackened roots
- 5 stunted growth

- 7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Advisor: Mr. Fussel, what's the problem with your corn?

Farmer: Well, 1 _____ even though I gave them plenty of water and fertilizer.

Advisor: 2 _____ first noticed the problem.

Farmer: That would have been 3 _____. First, I noticed the tops of some of the plants were browning.

Advisor: What happened next? 4 _____?

Farmer: Not that. Next, they 5 _____ slightly. That's when I 6 _____ water.

Writing

- 9 Use the conversation from Task 8 to write an email to an agricultural advisor. Include: your problem, crop symptoms, and changes you've seen.

To: Farmadvisor@farmsite.com
From: THernandez@Hfarm.com

To _____

Sincerely

_____   