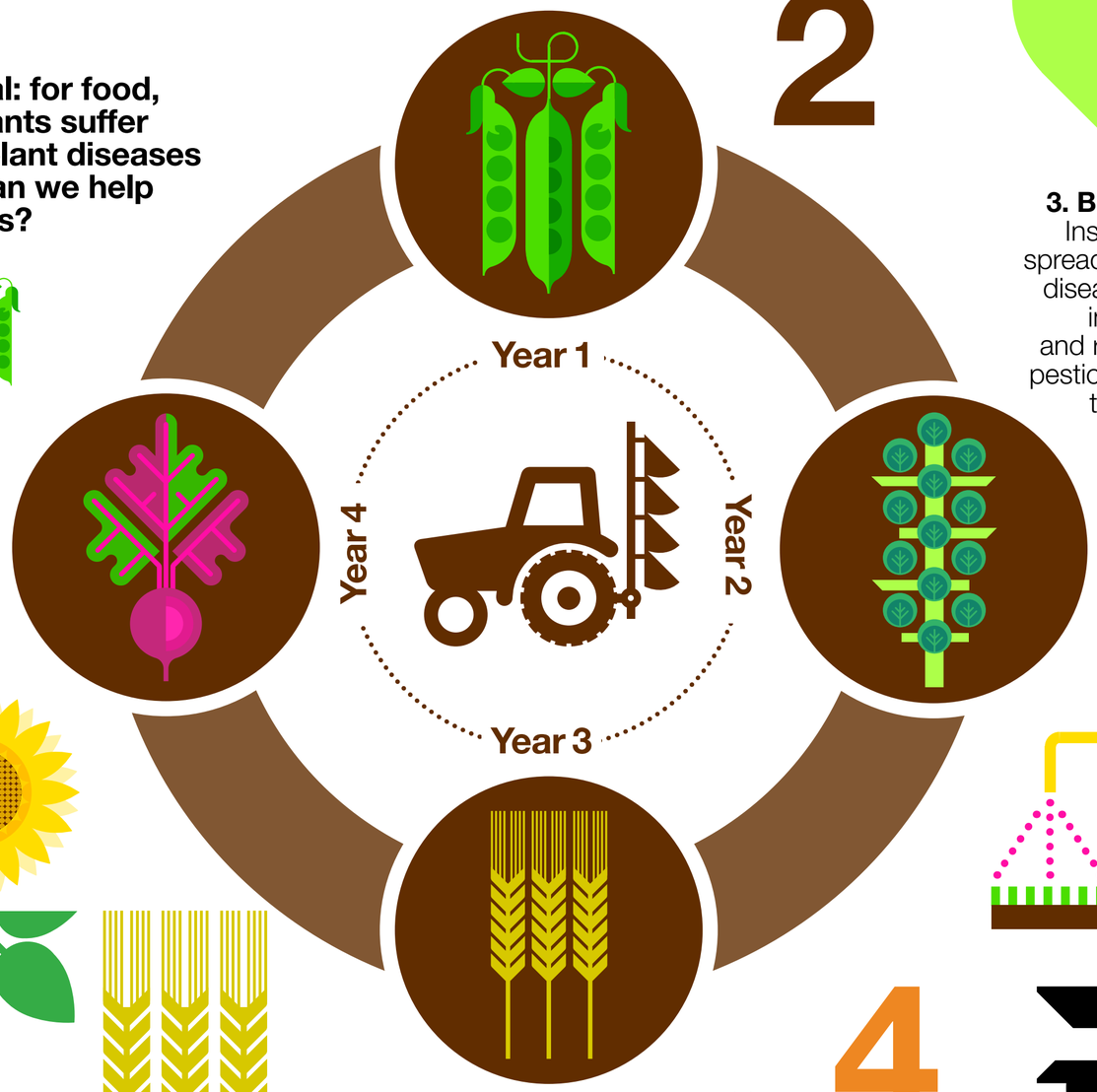
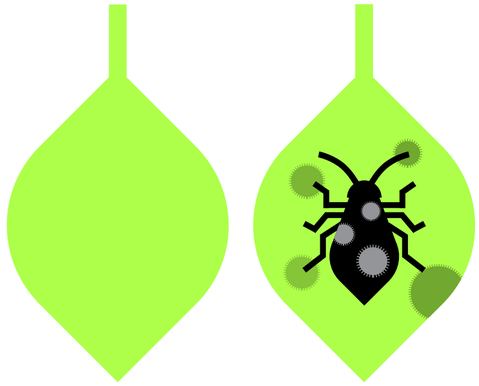
PlantPower
Plant Pathogens Control

We depend on plants for our survival: for food, materials and breathable air. But plants suffer from diseases just like we do, and plant diseases result in less food for us. So, how can we help stop the spread of diseases in plants?

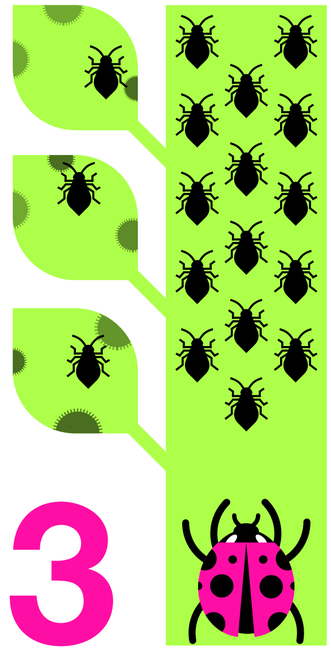
1. Polyculture farming
In polyculture farming a mixture of different plants are grown together. This restricts the spread of a disease because not all of the plants are vulnerable to the same pathogen. Some plants such as marigolds and yarrow can be used to deter insect pests that carry pathogens.

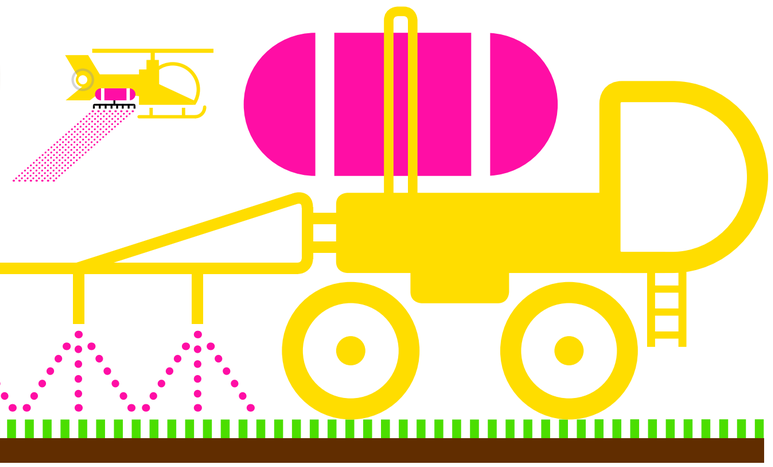
2. Crop rotation
Pathogens and their spores can stay in the soil from one year to the next. If the same crop is planted again it could become infected. Crop rotation reduces this problem by planting a different crop in a field each year.

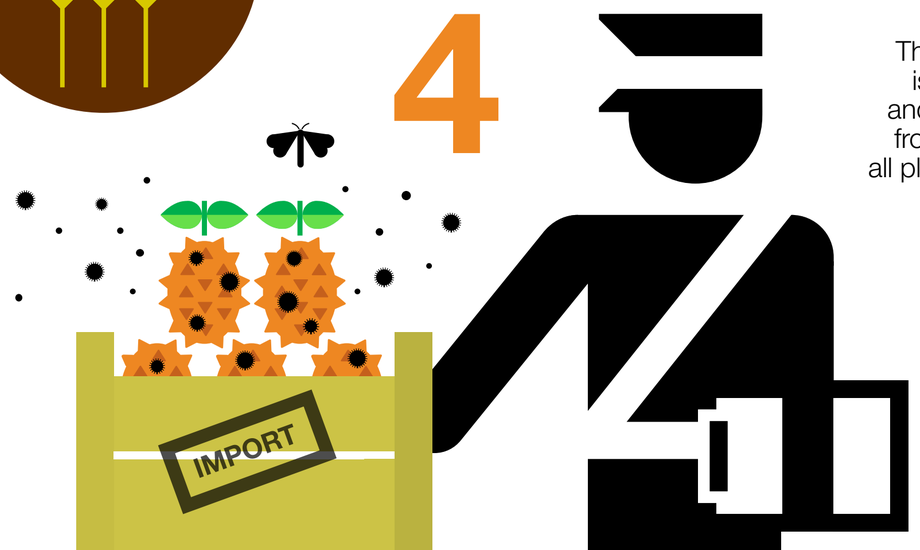




3. Biological & chemical control
Insect pests damage crops and spread the pathogens that cause plant diseases. Biological control involves introducing a predator to kill and reduce pest numbers. Chemical pesticides can be sprayed onto crops to kill pathogens and pests.







4. Controlling movement
The biggest threat to plant health is when infected plant material and new pathogens are brought in from elsewhere. Inspectors check all plant material for disease when it is brought into the UK.

www.saps.org.uk/pathogencontrol

Science &Plants for Schools