

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

WEEK: 9 AND 10

TOPIC: CLASSIFICATION OF CROPS

TERM: THIRD TERM

CLASS: SS1

CLASSIFICATION OF CROPS

Crops can be classified based on the following:

- i. uses
- ii. Life cycle
- iii. Morphology

CLASSIFICATION OF CROPS BASED ON THEIR USES

CEREALS

There are members of grass family. They are cultivated for edible seeds which are rich in carbohydrate and used as food e.g maize, sorghum, rice, oats, corn etc.

PULSE OR GRAIN LEGUMES

Grain legumes belong to leguminous family. They are grown for their edible seeds, which are rich in protein content. They are also rich in vitamins and carbohydrates e.g cowpea, soybeans, groundnut etc

FORAGES CROPS

Forage crops are legumes and grasses that are grown for the purpose of feeding livestock. Examples of forage crops include guinea grass, centrosema pueraria, mucuna etc.

SIOLAGE CROPS

These are leguminous plants grown for the purpose of ploughing nutrients back into the soil to increase its organic matter contents e.g crotolaria

TUBER CROPS

These are plants with underground food storing stem, they are rich in carbon hydrate e.g yam, cassava, cotton, kenaf etc.

DRUG CROPS

These crops are crops grown for medicinal purposes. Some have insecticides or pharmaceutical properties e.g. cola nut, tobacco, hemp, pyrethrum, cocaine etc.

VEGETABLE CROPS

These are crops that are rich in vitamins and minerals. Examples include tomatoes, pepper, okra, vegetables like waterleaf, pumpkin leaves etc.

BEVERAGE CROPS

These crops are used in the production of beverages e.g. cocoa, tea, coffee etc.

LATEX CROPS

These are crops grown for white fluid called latex e.g. rubber, Para-rubber.

FRUIT CROPS

These are crops that are generally grown and eaten because they provide vitamins and minerals. Also they require little or no processing before they can be eaten e.g. banana, cassava, mango, pawpaw. Pineapple etc.

OIL CROPS

These are crops which provide oil for domestic and industrial uses e.g. oil palm, groundnut, melon etc.

CLASSIFICATION OF CROPS BASED ON THEIR LIFE CYCLE

This classification can be grouped into four namely;

- i. Annual crops
- ii. Biennial crops
- iii. Perennial crops
- iv. Ephemerals

ANNUAL CROPS

These crops complete their life cycle within a period of one year e.g. cereals, cowpea, cotton, and groundnut.

BIENNIAL CROPS

These are crops that complete their life cycle within two years e.g. onions, cabbage, lettuce, ginger and cassava.

PERENNIAL CROPS

These are crops that complete their cycle in more than two years. Some of them bear fruits every year e.g. banana, palm oil, pineapple etc.

EPHEMERALS

These are crops that complete their life cycle once in three or four months e.g. tomatoes, okra, vegetables.

CLASSIFICATION OF CROPS BASES ON THEIR MORPHOLOGY

This type of classification can be further sub-grouped into two, namely;

- i. Monocotyledon plants
- ii. Cotyledon plants

MONOCOTYLEDON: Monocotyledonous crops can be defined as those that have one seed leaf or cotyledon.

Examples of monocotyledonous plants are maize, millet etc.

DICOTYLEDON: Dicotyledonous crops are those crops that have two seed or two cotyledons. Examples of dicotyledonous plants are cowpea, groundnut, cocoa etc.