

HOW DOES CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT PLANTS?

This year the UK is hosting COP26. Representatives from all around the world are gathering to discuss climate change and try to come up with some solutions. Climate change can have devastating effects on plants, let's find out how.

Carefully read the information below. Match each effect with its description.



Changes to water supply

Because plants can't migrate away from hot temperatures, some species will grow taller to cool themselves off. Their leaves shrink and they grow further away from other plants, leaving them unstable and unsupported. Many plants are more likely to suffer broken stems and root damage.



Changes to pollinator behaviour

Rising temperatures can have severe consequences for plants around the world. Even with access to water, plants in increasingly hotter climates can't adapt to their surroundings quickly enough and dry out very quickly.



Wildfires

Whether plants are pollinated by insects, birds, or mammals, climate change can interrupt the normal pollination behaviours of these animals. Hotter summers, colder winters, and changing rainfall patterns can make it very difficult for pollinators to do their job.



Changes to temperature

As the average global temperature rises, forests become more vulnerable to fires. Hot, dry summers in places like California and Australia mean that forest fires are more likely to happen and can spread much more quickly. This can not only damage plants but destroy entire ecosystems.



Changes to growth patterns

Plants have adapted to have specific water needs. Climate change can mean that some plants get too little water, others get too much, and some get water with the wrong balance of chemicals. This can kill them or affect their growth.