

Exercises biotic and abiotic factors

1. Explain Liebig's Law of the Minimum in your own words and state what agricultural tool it is often compared to.
2. Describe vernalisation and name one crop that requires it. What risk does climate change pose to this process?
3. Differentiate between direct and indirect damage caused by pests, giving one specific example of each from the text.
4. Why is it important to maintain a "sufficient interval" between crops of the same plant family? Relate your answer to pest and disease management.
5. Define the difference between the "damage threshold" and the "control threshold" in IPM.
6. A field of maize is experiencing poor growth. Soil tests show adequate nutrients, recent weather has been warm and sunny, but the soil is compacted and heavy clay. Using Liebig's Law of the Minimum, identify the most likely limiting abiotic factor and explain why it is limiting growth.