## **Marshall University Sustainability Department**

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## What Can Make a Plant Unhappy?

- Bugs and other wildlife eating off parts of it that are not fruit or seeds
- Fungus, Bacteria, or Viruses Plants get sick just like us!
- Not Eating the right food a poor balanced diet, low nutrient levels in the soil
- Not Drinking enough water drought
- **Getting too much water** can cause root rot, or wash the plant away with flooding
- Getting too much sun and heat drought
- Getting too little sun or colder temperatures too much shade or the onset of fall
- Air pollution
- Water pollution
- Soil pollution

## Symptoms of an Unhappy Plant

Symptom	Possible Cause
Spindly plant, few flowers, smaller in size	er Poor Light or Nutrients
2. Few Flowers, Lots of Leaves	Too much nitrogen in fertilizer
3. Holes in Leaves	An insect or animal nibbling on your plants
4. Yellow Leaves	Overwatering, poor soil drainage, low temperatures; might be a sucker-type bug such as a Squash Beetle or Aphid
5. Scorched or brown leaves	Too much direct sun light.
6. Brown leaf tips	Too much fertilizer or pesticides, dry soil, low temperature, hot air, salts in soil, root rot.
7. Small or wilting leaves	Soil remains too wet or too dry.
8. Spots on Leaves	A fungus (Leaf Spot, Water Spot), or sucker-type bugs such as a Squash Beatle or Aphid.
9. Leaf tips turn yellow, then brown then fall off	, Either it's Fall, or it is a disease (Anthrocnose).
10. White Powder on leaves	A fungus (Powdery Mildew), or a Mealybug.
11. Whole plant is wilting	Root rot from too much water, or possibly a pest eating holes in your plant (Potato Beetle, Squash Vine Borer)
12. Stunted growth, die-back of plan and distortion	ts, A disease such as Botrytis Blight.