METHODS OF APPLYING FERTILIZERS

- **Top dressing.**
  This is a method where fertilizers are put around a plant or in a ring.
  Advantages of top dressing method
  - It reduces wastage of fertilizers.
  - It is easy to apply to growing crops.
  - It gives plants nutrients when they need them most.

- **Broad casting method**
  This is a method where the fertilizers are spread all over the garden before preparation of the garden
  Advantages of broad casting
  - It is quick and easy to use
  - It requires less labour
  - It is suitable for large pieces of land
  - It is suitable for crops planted close together

- **Placement method**
  This is a method where fertilizers are put into the planting hole together with the seeds and covered.
  Advantages of placement method.
  - It reduces wastage of fertilizers.
  - It helps plants get nutrients easily
  - It reduces fertilizers removed by erosion

- **Spraying**
  The fertilizers in liquid form are mixed and then sprayed using a knapsack sprayer.
  Advantages of spraying
  - It uses small amount of fertilizers
  - It can be used when soil is too dry or wet
  - Fertilizers are applied directly to the leaves

METHODS OF CONTROLLING PESTS

- Mechanical method
  - ✓ Physical guarding by the farmer-The farmers chases away pests as they enter the garden
  - ✓ Fencing the garden-The fence prevents the pests from entering the garden
  - ✓ Putting scare crows –They scare away pests as they enter they garden
  - ✓ Setting mouse traps –The traps kill mice

- Biological methods
  - ✓ Taming a cat to kill and eat rats
  - ✓ Keeping a dog to kill squirrels
  - ✓ Use of wasps to control caterpillars.

- Cultural method
  - ✓ Practicing crop rotation-This breaks the life cycle of pests.
  - ✓ Early planting and harvesting-This allows crops to mature before the break out of pests
  - ✓ Timely weeding-Weeding removes the hiding places for pests.
  - ✓ Proper spacing of crops-It denies hiding places for pests

- Chemical method
  - ✓ Spraying pesticides-Pesticides kills pests
  - ✓ Using rat poison to kill rats
  - ✓ Dusting the affected crops

Signs of crops affected by pests and diseases

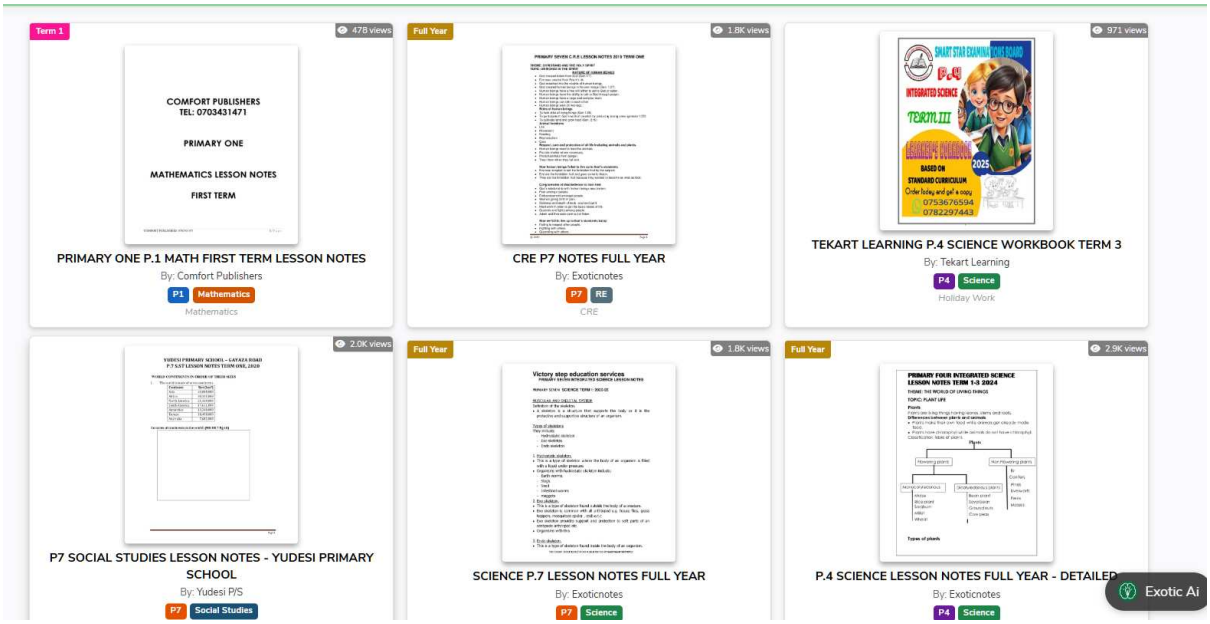
- Leaf yellowing
- Rotting of tubers
- Holes on tubers and leaves

Effects of pests and diseases to tuber crops

- They reduce on the crop yields
- They cause stunted growth of crops
- They cause rotting of root crops
- They damage the tubers

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