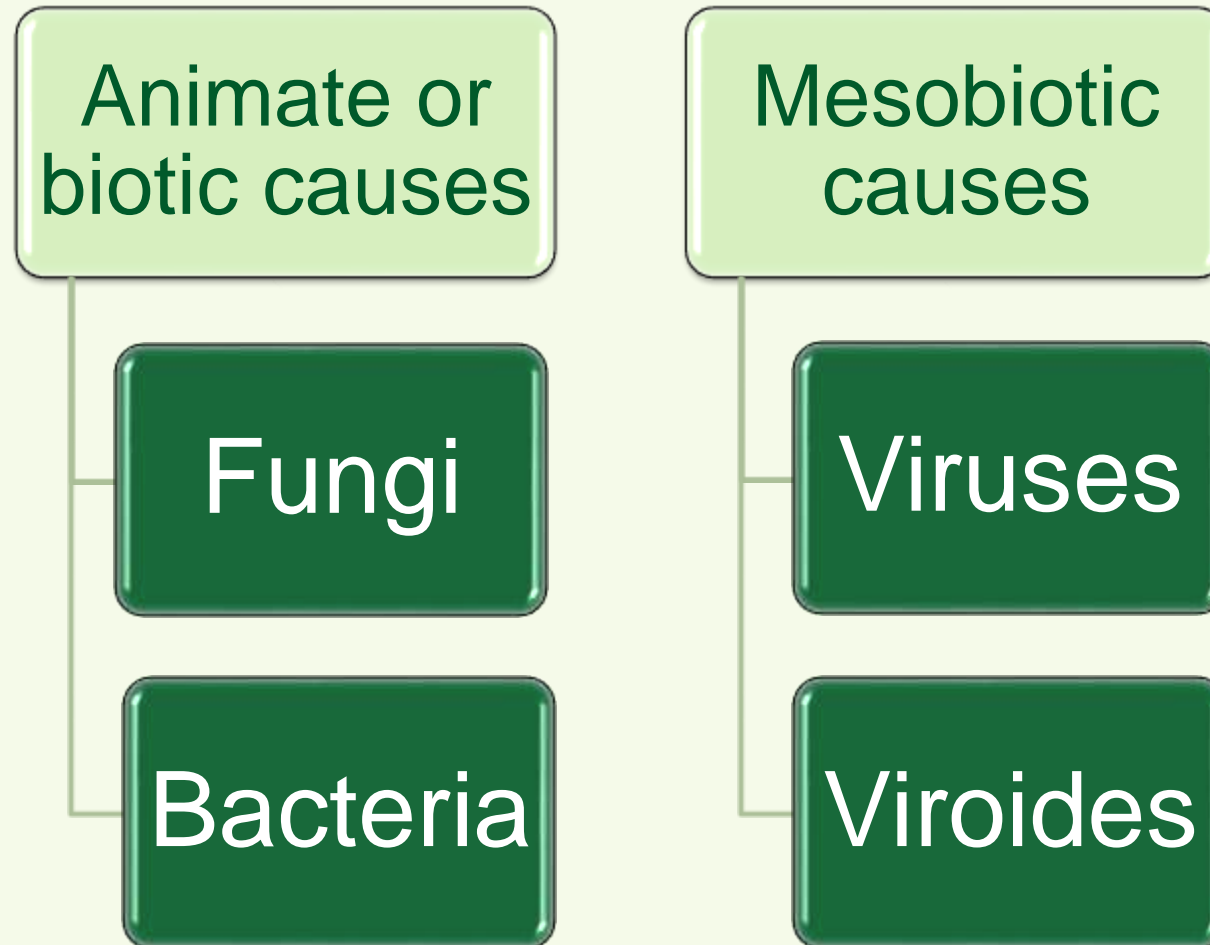


Importance of Plant Diseases

- The study of plant diseases is important as they cause loss to the plant as well as plant produce.
- The various types of losses occur in the field, in storage or any time between sowing and consumption of produce.
- The diseases are responsible for direct monetary loss and material loss
- Fossil evidence indicates that plants were affected by different diseases 250 million year ago.
- The Plant disease has been associated with many important events in the history
- Cultivated plants are often more susceptible to diseases than are their wild relatives.
- Important environmental factors that may affect development of plant diseases are temperature, relative humidity, soil moisture, soil pH, soil type, and soil fertility.
- Raising or lowering the levels of certain nutrients also influences the development of some infectious diseases
- Plant diseases still inflict suffering on untold millions of people worldwide causing an estimated annual yield loss of 14% globally with an estimated economic loss of 220 billion U. S. dollars.

CAUSES OF PLANT DISEASES

- The causes of plant diseases are grouped under following categories:



TYPES OF CROP LOSSES

- Reduction in yield o Leaf spots/blight reduce photosynthetic capacity of plants o Root pathogens o Fruit rots and fruit spots
- Reduce quantity of harvestable and marketable fruits
- Losses from deterioration during storage, marketing or transport.
- The amount of lost food daily is enough to feed the world's population .
- Reduction in quality of produce .
- Citrus fruits with scabs .
- Moldy cereals and other commodities .
- Reduced strength and undesirable discoloration in wood pulp .
- Poor germination of infected seed.