

GCSE Biology A (Gateway)

J247/02 B4-B6 and B7 Foundation (Foundation Tier)

Question Set 7

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In many countries, people rely on bananas for food.

Black sigatoka is a disease of banana plants.

The disease is caused by a fungus.

(a) Banana plants grown by farmers are usually produced asexually. This process uses mitosis. This means that, if one banana plant dies of black sigatoka, all the bananas can die.

Explain why.

(b) The food security of bananas could be improved using different methods. Draw a straight line to join each **method** to a step that it **involves**.

method	involves
biological control	putting a gene for resistance into banana plants
	growing bananas in a greenhouse
	•
genetic engineering	choosing resistant banana plants to use for reproduction
	using hydroponics
selective breeding	introducing a virus that kills black sigatoka fungus

[1]

(c) (i) A type of pesticide called a fungicide can be used to kill the fungus.

Scientists are investigating how well a fungicide works. They also want to see if the fungicide works better if they add a chemical called a sticking agent. This helps the fungicide stick to the banana leaves.

The scientists grow banana plants in four blocks.

The table shows the treatments each block is given.

	Treatment		
Block	Fungicide	Sticking agent	
Α	✓	✓	
В	1	Х	
С	Х	✓	
D	Х	Х	

Block C			
BIOCK L.			

DII- D)	
BIOCK III	1	
	/	

(ii) After a few months the scientists gave the plants in each area a disease rating. The higher the disease rating the more disease present.

Block	Disease rating
Α	20
В	35
С	45
D	60

What conclusions could the scientists make from this study?

[2]



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