

Some of the most common terms used to describe symptoms of plant diseases.

Blight	A disease characterised by widespread death of plant tissue.
Local necrosis	The necrosis sites are limited and only involves a part or a few plant cells/tissues.
Canker	A sunken necrotic lesion often of a main stem, branch or root.
Damping-off	Collapse and rot of seedlings near soil level before emergence or soon after emergence caused by <i>Pythium</i> spp., <i>Phytophthora</i> spp., <i>Fusarium</i> spp., and <i>Rhizoctonia</i> spp.
Dieback	Partial defoliation, twig and branch death and even complete death of plants.
Downy mildew	White or grey 'bloom' on leaves and stems caused by production of sporangiophores and sporangia by members of the Peronosporales (downy mildew fungi).
Gall	An abnormal growth or swelling produced as a result of pathogenic invasion.
Mosaic	Patchy variation of normal green colour in leaves, usually light and dark green mosaic, symptomatic of many viral diseases.
Powdery mildew	White powdery 'bloom' on the plant surface caused by the production of fungal mycelium, conidiophores and conidia by members of the Erysiphales (powdery mildew fungi).
Pustule	A blister-like spore mass breaking through a plant epidermis.
Rot	Disintegration of tissue, often caused by enzymes or toxins produced by pathogens.
Rust	Rust-coloured pustules formed by members of the Uredinales (rust fungi).
Scab	A discrete, superficial roughened lesion. E.g: Citrus scab – <i>Elsinoe fawcettii</i> , Powdery scab of potatoes – <i>Spongospora subterranea</i>
Smut	A disease characterised by black spore masses on leaves, stems or inflorescences, caused by members of the Ustilaginales (smut fungi).
Vascular wilt	A disease in which the pathogen is confined to the vascular system of the host and in which wilting is a characteristic symptom; plants lose their turgidity and become flaccid, leaves collapse.