

Definitions Describing the Reaction of Plants to Pests and Pathogens

IMMUNITY: Plant varieties which are not subject to attack or infection by a specific pest/pathogen are considered immune.

RESISTANCE: Not as strong as immunity; two levels of resistance are defined.

High Resistance (HR): Plant varieties that restrict the growth and development of the specific pest or pathogen under normal pest or pathogen attack pressure when compared to susceptible varieties. These plant varieties can exhibit some symptoms or damage under heavy pest or pathogen pressure. Plant varieties with Resistance (R) are not immune to the pest/pathogen.

Intermediate Resistance (IR): Plant varieties that restrict the growth and development of the specified pest/pathogen, but may exhibit a greater range of symptoms or damage compared to high resistant varieties. Intermediate resistant plant varieties will usually show less severe symptoms or damage than susceptible plant varieties when grown under similar environmental conditions and/or pest/pathogen pressure, but may have heavy damage under heavy pressure. Plant varieties with Intermediate Resistance (IR) are not immune to the pest/pathogen.

SUSCEPTIBLE: Defined as the inability of a plant variety to restrict the growth and development of a specified pest/pathogen. Plant varieties that are susceptible will show damage when infected and are more likely to have heavy damage under moderate levels of pest/pathogen pressure.

Definitions Describing the Reaction of Plants to Abiotic Stresses

Abiotic stresses are those caused by the environment and not by a living organism.

TOLERANCE: The ability of a plant variety to endure abiotic or environmental stress with more limited effect on growth, appearance and yield although, under higher levels of abiotic stress, the plant variety may be damaged.