



the local
carbon
network

Urban Farming - Lesson 15 Troubleshooting

Too much water

Leaves are yellow or brown. The earth has a pungent or moldy smell.

Repot if possible, or add fresh compost to the surface digging it in as far as you can

Put the rotten soil in the compost bin or in the sun to sterilize it



Root Rot

Often associated with plants that have received too much water in a pot with little drainage and where stagnation has formed. Cut away the dark and diseased roots. Change the soil.

Disinfect pot and scissors with hydrogen peroxide. Disinfect the soil in compost or in the sun before reusing.



Water shortage

The plant will be wilted with yellow or brown leaves, but unlike when the plant has too much water, the leaves will be crisp to the touch and tend to break. The tips of the leaves may be dead.

The problem is solved by watering.

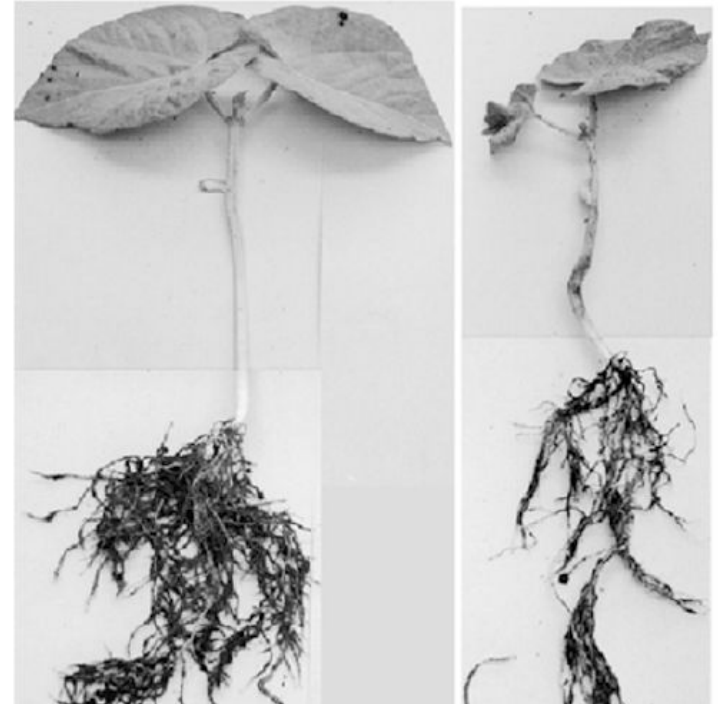


Compacted Soil

It can happen both in pots and on the land. It is important that the soil is soft otherwise the plants will not grow,

Soften the soil by hoeing and adding compost before transplanting. Use clod breaker or pitchfork to ventilate.

Repot potted plants every 2-3 years.



Too much sun

Dry leaves with lighter areas as if they were faded, and/or burnt brown edges.

Research if that species wants full sun or not.

Move the plant to a suitable area or use a shade fabric.

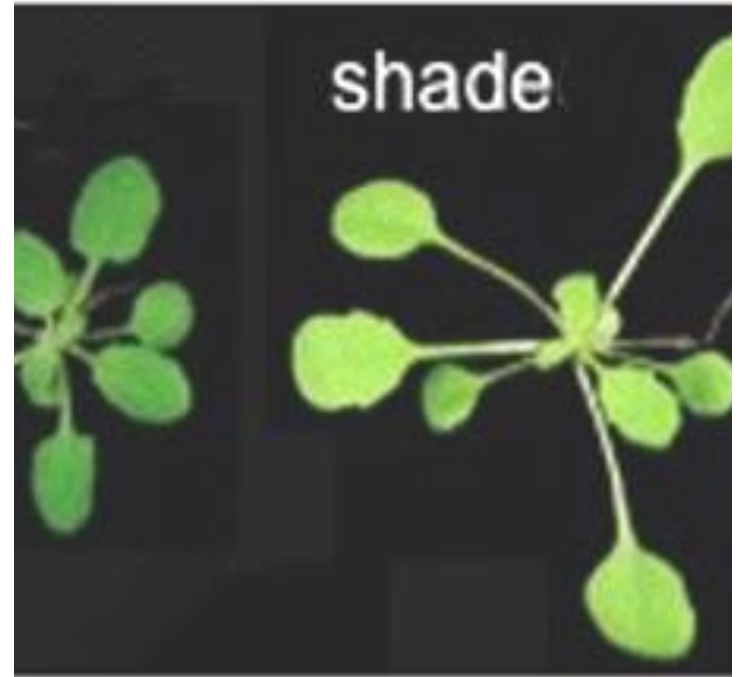


Too Little Sun

Leaves homogeneously a lighter green than usual.

Discover if that species wants full sun or not.

Move the plant to the most suitable area, possibly facing south.



Too much fertilizer

Bottom leaves are yellow and withered, burned brown tips and edges.

Dark roots, stunted growth, leaves falling.

To solve: Water for a long time to rinse off excess fertilizer.



Pot Too Small

If the roots outgrow the pot the plant will have symptoms similar to overwatering because roots will lack air.

To solve, move the plant to a larger pot or carefully prune the roots if you prefer for the plant to not grow any larger.



Nitrogen Deficiency

Yellow leaves at the base of the plant.

Give manure, compost, compost tea or fresh urine diluted 1:10 in water.



Magnesium deficiency

Yellow areas between the veins.

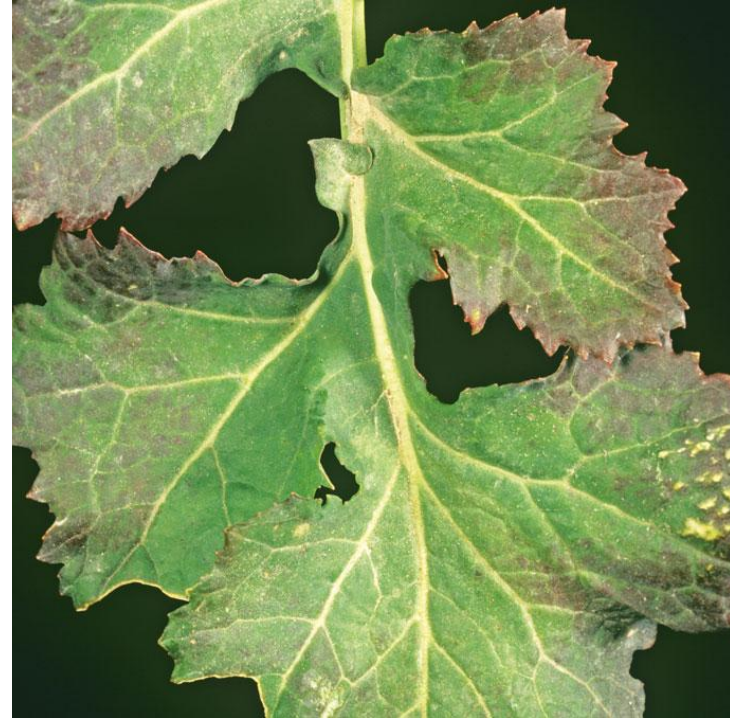
Give compost, compost tea or diluted Epsom salts.



Phosphorus deficiency

Edges of the leaves are violet.

Give compost, compost tea, diluted fresh urine or homemade [fish fertilizer](#).
If you have an aquarium, irrigate with that water.



Potassium Deficiency

Yellow between the veins and burnt edges.

Give compost, compost tea, manure or ash.



Calcium deficiency

Blossom rot, and new leaves are deformed.

Give compost, compost tea, eggshell and / or cooking water from the eggshell.

Or buy a specific fertiliser for tomatoes.



Iron deficiency

New leaves are pale between the veins.

Give compost, compost tea, bury rusty iron and / or [acidify the soil](#) to facilitate iron absorption.



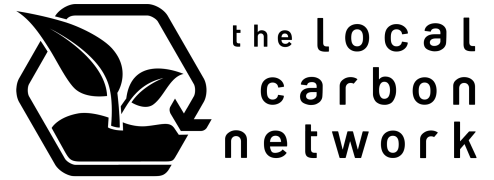
imagine: Getty Images

The golden rule? To observe!

It is important to take a few minutes a day to observe your plants, that way you will notice immediately if there is something wrong and can take appropriate measures.

Keep a work area and some earth always available and avoid postponing assistance to your plants.





This was the last lesson of our series, we hope you enjoyed it!

If you have any questions please write to us in the Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LocalCarbonNetwork>

or keep an eye out for our newsletter as we often arrange free online Q&A sessions on ZOOM

or see our FAQ, articles and videos on the website <https://localcarbon.net/>

Thanks!