



Name _____



MASTER 4.3

NUTRIENTS AND PLANT HEALTH

| NUTRIENT | WHY DO PLANTS NEED THIS NUTRIENT? | WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS NOT ENOUGH OF THE NUTRIENT? |
|------------|---|---|
| Nitrogen | Plants need nitrogen to grow and for photosynthesis. | When there is not enough nitrogen, the leaves of the plant turn yellow. The plant may be small and spindly. |
| Phosphorus | Phosphorus is important for seed germination and for use of water by the plant. | When there is not enough phosphorus, plants may grow slowly and are more likely to be affected by disease or water shortage. The leaves and stems may look purple or red. |
| Potassium | Potassium is important for water use in plants and for strong stalks. | When there is not enough potassium, the edges of leaves may be yellow or brown. The stems are weak and break easily. The roots do not form well. |