**Factors that harm or slow down plant growth**

**Weeds**

Complete for light, water and nutrients

**Wind**

* Damages stems and branches
* Increases loss of water from leaves through transpiration
* Cools plant down and can slow growth
* Reduces the number of bees affecting pollination

**Pests**

* Damage the leaves, stems and fruit
* Cause the spread of diseases

**Diseases**

Damage the leaves, stems and fruit decreasing the value of the product

**High humidity (above 80%)**

Increases the risk of bacterial and fungal diseases

**Cold temperature**

* Slows down the rate of photosynthesis
* Frosts damage new growth, flowers and fruit

**Low light**

* low rate of photosynthesis, slow plant growth
* cause etiolation of plants