

-What are plants good for?

- Oxygen
- Food
- Medicine (25% comes directly from plants)
- Décor
- Clothing (cotton)
- Soil Stabilizers

-Cotton is the largest agricultural crop in this area

- Not because it started growing here
- This is the worst spot to grow cotton. However, planters have developed drought tolerant cotton

-Cotton fibers exist on the fruit in order to protect and disperse its seeds

-Are plants important (for humans/planet)?

- Food, clothing, shelter, aesthetics
- Oxygen
- Capture of energy from sun
- Absorption of contaminants from air, soil, and water
- Medicines
- Cosmetics
- Erosion Control
- Web of life

-Plants capturing energy from the sun is what makes them the base of life (photosynthesis)

-Plants are at the base of the food chain

- plants are primary producers → create carbohydrates due to photosynthesis

-Where do plants grow?

- Natural Plant Systems
- Cultivated Systems

-Natural Plant Systems

- areas where plants grow naturally
- Ecosystems
- Many different types of ecosystems occur on Earth
- Are natural systems beneficial for humans?

-California, Texas, and Florida are 3 major agricultural states

- If something were to happen in one of these states, it becomes federal issues/panic/crisis

-Ecosystem service → Agriculturalists look at nature and how things work and try to copy it

-Cultivated plant systems (Agricultural Systems)

- Human-made, cultivated systems
- Agriculture: Cultivation of organisms (only plant related fields are listed below)
  - o Agronomy (Grains, agronomic crops, forage)
  - o Horticulture (Fruit & Vegetable crops {"veggie" used as a culinary term not botanical} and ornamental crops)
  - o Forestry (timber, resin, syrup)

-Agriculture = crops (not just plants)

-What was the original source of plants for cultivated, managed, agricultural systems? WILD SOURCES

-What is the source for "new" plants for human use today? WILD SOURCES

→ Corn originated in South America and was then brought to North America as people moved

-By doing genetics, you can select the characteristics you don't want and choose the ones you want

- ie. Corn: it originally had teeny kernels with many leaves. Now, it is a huge cob with fewer leaves because we don't need the leaves so we got rid of them
- ie. Babies: petri-dish babies

→ We do go back to the original source in order to learn more

-Natural systems are the ultimate source of all plants