

# ENVIRONMENTAL STRESS



Plants can't escape to safety when things get tough so they ADAPT to their environment



WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE PLANTS?

419 million years ago...

Plants first colonised the land surface on Earth, but it was very different back then...

Temperature, water availability, salinity and background radiation are just a few things that have changed in our environment.

Hello! My name is Nicol and I am a scientist. I study plant responses to a type of stress called Ionising Radiation



My work helps us understand what happens to plants when there is above background radiation in the environment.

## Try it!

- You will need:
- 2 x young tomato plants in pots of soil
- Salt
- Water
- Ruler, pen and paper



- 1.) Water plants each day with the same amount of water (half a cup will be enough) but fill one of the cups with 3 teaspoons of ordinary salt.
- 2.) Measure each plant height with a ruler at 5, 10 and 14 days after watering and write down your results.

Can you see the impact the salt has on growth?

Have you wondered how grass stays cold beneath your feet on a hot summers day?



In very hot climates some plants avoid getting too hot by having shiny leaves that reflect incoming solar rays away from them