

IV Semester/ Botany Core Course –
4 Plant Physiology and Metabolism
(Total hours of teaching – 60 @ 04 Hrs./Week)

Theory:

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this course, the students will be able to;

- Comprehend the importance of water in plant life and mechanisms for transport of water and solutes in plants.
- Evaluate the role of minerals in plant nutrition and their deficiency symptoms.
- Interpret the role of enzymes in plant metabolism.
- Critically understand the light reactions and carbon assimilation processes responsible for synthesis of food in plants.
- Analyze the biochemical reactions in relation to Nitrogen and lipid metabolisms.
- Evaluate the physiological factors that regulate growth and development in plants.
- Examine the role of light on flowering and explain physiology of plants under stress conditions.

Unit – 1:	Plant-Water relations	10 Hrs.
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1. Importance of water to plant life, physical properties of water, diffusion, imbibition, osmosis. water potential, osmotic potential, pressure potential.
2. Absorption and lateral transport of water; Ascent of sap
3. Transpiration: stomata structure and mechanism of stomatal movements (K^+ ion flux).
4. Mechanism of phloem transport; source-sink relationships.

Unit – 2:	Mineral nutrition, Enzymes and Respiration	14 Hrs.
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1. Essential macro and micro mineral nutrients and their role in plants; symptoms of mineral deficiency
2. Absorption of mineral ions; passive and active processes.
3. Characteristics, nomenclature and classification of Enzymes. Mechanism of enzyme action, enzyme kinetics.

4. Respiration: Aerobic and Anaerobic; Glycolysis, Krebs cycle; electron transport system, mechanism of oxidative phosphorylation, Pentose Phosphate Pathway (HMP shunt).

Unit – 3: Photosynthesis and Photorespiration 12 Hrs.

1. Photosynthesis: Photosynthetic pigments, absorption and action spectra; Red drop and Emerson enhancement effect
2. Concept of two photosystems; mechanism of photosynthetic electron transport and evolution of oxygen; photo-phosphorylation
3. Carbon assimilation pathways (C₃, C₄ and CAM);
4. Photorespiration - C₂ pathway

Unit – 4: Nitrogen and lipid metabolism 12 Hrs.

1. Nitrogen metabolism: Biological nitrogen fixation – asymbiotic and symbiotic nitrogen fixing organisms. Nitrogenase enzyme system.
2. Lipid metabolism: Classification of Plant lipids, saturated and unsaturated fatty acids.
3. Anabolism of triglycerides, β -oxidation of fatty acids, Glyoxylate cycle.

Unit – 5: Plant growth - development and stress physiology 12 Hrs.

1. Growth and Development: Definition, phases and kinetics of growth.
2. Physiological effects of Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs) - auxins, gibberellins, cytokinins, ABA, ethylene and brassinosteroids.
3. Physiology of flowering: Photo periodism, role of phytochrome in flowering.
4. Seed germination and senescence; physiological changes.

Practical Syllabus of Botany Core Course – 4 / Semester –

IV Plant Physiology and Metabolism

(Total hours of laboratory exercises 30 Hrs. @ 02 Hrs. /Week)

Course outcomes:

On successful completion of this practical course, students shall be able to:

1. Conduct lab and field experiments pertaining to Plant Physiology, that is, biophysical and biochemical processes using related glassware, equipment, chemicals and plant material.
2. Estimate the quantities and qualitative expressions using experimental results and calculations
3. Demonstrate the factors responsible for growth and development in plants.

Practical Syllabus

1. Determination of osmotic potential of plant cell sap by plasmolytic method using *Rhoeo/ Tradescantia* leaves.
2. Calculation of stomatal index and stomatal frequency of a mesophyte and a xerophyte.
3. Determination of rate of transpiration using Cobalt chloride method / Ganong's photo meter (at least for a dicot and a monocot).
4. Effect of Temperature on membrane permeability by colorimetric method.
5. Study of mineral deficiency symptoms using plant material/photographs.
6. Demonstration of amylase enzyme activity and study the effect of substrate and Enzyme concentration.
7. Separation of chloroplast pigments using paper chromatography technique.
8. Demonstration of Poly phenol oxidase enzyme activity (Potato tuber or Apple fruit)
9. Anatomy of C₃, C₄ and CAM leaves
10. Estimation of protein by biuret method/Lowry method
11. Minor experiments – Osmosis, Arc-auxono meter, ascent of sap through xylem, cytoplasmic streaming.

Model Question Paper for Practical Examination

Semester – IV/ Botany Core Course – 4

Plant Physiology and Metabolism

Max. Time: 3 Hrs.

Max. Marks: 50

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1. Conduct the experiment 'A' (Major experiment), write aim, principle, material and apparatus/equipment, procedure, tabulate results and make conclusion. 20 M
 2. Demonstrate the experiment 'B' (Minor experiment), write the principle, procedure and give inference. 10 M
 3. Identify the following with apt reasons. 3 x 4 = 12 M
 - A. Plant water relations / Mineral nutrition
 - B. Plant metabolism
 - C. Plant growth and development
 4. Record + Viva-voce 5 + 3 = 8 M

Suggested co-curricular activities for Botany Core Course-4 in Semester-IV:

A. Measurable :

a. Student seminars :

1. Anti transpirants and their significance in crop physiology and horticulture.
2. Natural chelating agents in plants.
3. Criteria of essentiality of elements and beneficial elements.
4. Hydroponics, aquaponics and aeroponics.
5. Mycorrhizal association and mineral nutrition in plants.
6. Non- proteinaceous enzymes.
7. Respiratory inhibitors.
8. Structure of ATPase and Chemiosmotic hypothesis.
9. Transpiration and photosynthesis – a compromise.
10. Amphibolic pathways and bypass pathways in plants.
11. Non-biological nitrogen fixation.
12. Role of Hydrogenase in nitrogen fixation.
13. Plant lectins – their role in plants and use in medicine and medical research.

b. Student Study Projects :

1. Stomatal densities among different groups of plants.
2. Various treatments (salt, cold, high temperature, heavy metals) and their effects on seed germination.
3. Effects of plant hormones (IAA, Gibberellin and Kinetin) on Seed Germination.
4. Diurnal variation of stomatal behavior in CAM and C3 plants found in local area.
5. Effects of nitrogen fertilizer on plant growth.
6. Enumeration of C3, C4 and CAM plants in the local area.
7. Effect of different light wavelengths (red light, green light, blue light) on apparent photosynthesis in terms of growth.
8. Light effects on leaf growth and leaf orientation.
9. Artificial Fruit Ripening Process by various treatments (carbide and ethylene).
10. Study of relative water content and water retention by leaves under different environments.
11. Study of soil nutrients in local agricultural fields.
12. Study of mineral deficiency symptoms of various crops of local area.
13. Study of local weeds in crop fields.
14. Studies on seed storage proteins, oils and starch in local millets and pulse crops.
15. Making a report on LDPs, SDPs and DNP in their locality.

c. Assignments: Written assignment at home / during '0' hour at college; preparation of charts with drawings, making models etc., on topics included in syllabus.

B. General :

1. Group Discussion (GD)/ Quiz/ Just A Minute (JAM) on different modules in syllabus of the course.
2. Visit to a Plant Physiology laboratory in a University or Physiology division in a Agriculture/Horticulture University/Research station.