

10 Indicators of Crop Health

INDICATOR	ESTABLISHED VALUES*	CHARACTERISTICS
Appearance	1	Chlorotic, discolored foliage with signs of deficiency
	5	Light-green foliage with some discoloring
	10	Dark-green foliage with no signs of deficiency
Crop growth	1	Poor growth, short branches, limited new growth, sparse stand
	5	Denser but not uniform stand, thin branches, some new growth
	10	Dense, uniform stand with vigorous growth
Tolerance or resistance to stress	1	Susceptible; does not recover well after stress
	5	Moderately susceptible; recovers slowly after stress
	10	Tolerant; recovers quickly after stress
Disease or pest incidence	1	Susceptible; >50% of plants damaged
	5	20–45% of plants damaged
	10	Resistant; <20% of plants with light damage
Weed competition and pressure	1	Crops stressed and overwhelmed by weeds
	5	Moderate presence of weeds exerting some competition
	10	Vigorous crop that overcomes weeds
Actual or potential yield	1	Low in relation to local average
	5	Medium or acceptable in relation to local average
	10	Good or high in relation to local average
Genetic diversity	1	One dominant variety
	5	Two varieties
	10	More than two varieties
Plant diversity	1	Monoculture
	5	Two species
	10	More than two species
Natural surrounding vegetation	1	Surrounded by other crops; no natural vegetation
	5	Adjacent to natural vegetation on at least one side
	10	Adjacent to natural vegetation on at least two sides
Management system	1	Conventional agrichemical inputs
	5	In transition to organic; IPM or input substitution
	10	Diversified; organic inputs; low external inputs

*1=least desirable, 5=moderate, 10=preferred.