Farming Fungi

In this task, you will learn more about how mycorrhizal fungi can be used to improve crop production using a three-level reading guide.

Scan the QR code, or click on the link (VIEW 9) to view the video.

Farming Fungi (4:15) https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/farming-fungi/9435460

Read the article 'Farming Fungi' and complete the three-level reading guide below on your own. A three-level reading guide helps you to 'dig below the surface' when you read a text.

Decide whether each of the statements below is True (T) or False (F). Make notes about the reasons why you chose each option. You will be asked to share your reasons with the class later in the activity.

Three-level reading guide

1. Level one – Literal (What ideas are actually mentioned in the text?)

	True	False
a) Mycorrhizal fungi competes with its host plant for food.	☐	☐
b) Mycorrhizal fungi provide plants with nutrients and water.	☐	☐
c) Tomato plants grown with mycorrhizal fungi grow bigger.	☐	☐
d) When plant roots die, their mycorrhizal fungi produce spores.	☐	☐

2. Level two – Interpretative (What ideas can I infer from the text?)

	True	False
a) Mycorrhizal fungi grow well around the roots of plants like marigolds, peas and spring onions.	☐	☐
b) Mycorrhizal fungal spores can survive in the soil for long periods.	☐	☐
c) When their plants die, the mycorrhizal fungi survive.	☐	☐
d) Plants with lots of mycorrhizal hyphae are more likely to die in a drought.	☐	☐

3. Level three – Applied (How can these ideas be applied to situations? You can also use your own background knowledge.)

	True	False
a) To meet our future global food needs, we have to add more artificial fertilisers to crops.	☐	☐
b) To meet our future food needs, we need to invest in more research into the role that soil microorganisms play in ecosystems — both natural and those managed by humans.	☐	☐

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