

Uses of plants in the environment for agricultural purposes

- 1 **Food production:** Most plant species are used for food production either directly or indirectly e.g vegetables (cabbages, kales, spinach, black night shade); fruit trees (mangoes, apples, oranges); cereals and grains (maize, beans, cowpeas).
- 2 **Cover cropping:** Plant are grown as cover crops to provide adequate coverage of the soil in order to prevent soil erosion e.g sweet potatoes and legumes.
- 3 **Apiary:** Plants have been used for holding beehives, producing flowers from which nectar is collected by bees.
- 4 **Organic manure:** Plants improve organic matter content in the soil and are also used to make manure e.g green manure.
- e **Animal habitat:** Plants provide habitats for animals such as birds, insect, wild animals.
- f **Shading :** plants provide shade which:

i. Protects the soil from direct impact of rain drops

ii. Prevent loss of soil water

iii. Protects animals from heat during hot seasons

- g **Fencing:** Plants have been used for fencing either as living fences e. Kei apple, euphorbia, or as dead fences e,g wooden fences, droppers.