(b) The photograph shows darnel, a species of grass.

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The fungus *Epichloë festucae* lives within darnel for part of its life cycle.

The fungus influenced the expression of certain genes in the plant cells.

- There was reduced expression of some genes involved in DNA synthesis.
- There was reduced expression of some genes involved with the synthesis of phospholipids, starch and sucrose.

(i) Explain the effect of this fungal infection on the growth of the plant.

(4)

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