

*(c) Some plants contain chemicals that protect them from being eaten by animals.

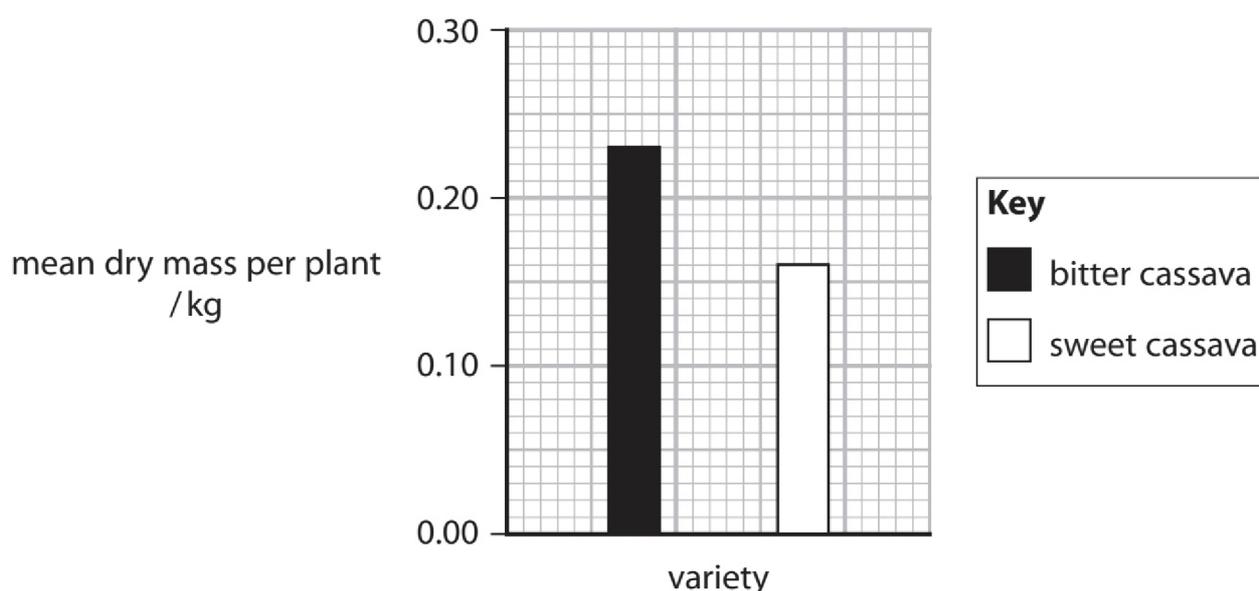
These chemicals taste bitter and can be converted by enzymes into hydrogen cyanide.

Hydrogen cyanide inhibits respiration and can cause death.

Cassava can be grouped into two main varieties: bitter cassava and sweet cassava. These varieties differ in the concentration of the bitter-tasting chemicals.

Processing of the cassava removes most of these chemicals.

The graph shows the mean dry mass of these cassava varieties when grown in the same conditions.



The table gives information about three crop plants.

Crop plant	Water requirements	Minimum level of nutrients required in soil	Typical mass of bitter tasting chemicals / mg kg ⁻¹	Typical mass of carbohydrate / 100 g of dry plant matter	Typical mass of protein / 100 g of dry plant matter
Bitter cassava	low to medium	low	100 to 500	94.70	1.80
Sweet cassava	low to medium	low	10 to 50	94.62	1.84
Maize	medium to high	medium to high	1 to 2	77.46	8.75