

# Plant Needs

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# Glossary

**adaptation** (ad-ap-TAY-shuhn) a structure or behavior that helps an organism survive in an environment **(22)**

**chlorophyll** (KLOR-uh-fil) the green substance in plant cells that captures light energy from the Sun for use in producing food **(18)**

**chloroplast** (KLOR-uh-plast) a structure in a plant cell where food is produced **(14)**

**leaf** (LEEF) a typically flat, green part of a plant that grows out of the stem and is where photosynthesis mostly takes place **(14)**

**nonvascular** (non-VAS-kyuh-lur) having no bundles of tube-like vessels for transporting water, nutrients, and food throughout a plant; materials pass from cell to cell **(10)**

**nutrient** (NOO-tree-uhnt) a substance that an organism needs to stay healthy **(6)**

**organism** (OR-guh-niz-uhm) a living thing, such as a plant or an animal **(4)**

**oxygen** (OK-si-juhn) a gas in the air that most organisms need to live and that plants give off **(5)**

**phloem** (FLOH-em) the tissue in a vascular plant that transports food made in the leaves down to the rest of the plant **(11)**

**photosynthesis** (foh-toh-SIN-thi-sis) the process by which plants use energy from sunlight to make food from water and carbon dioxide **(18)**

**respiration** (res-puh-RAY-shuhn) the process by which food is broken down to release energy within the cells of an organism **(19)**

**response** (ri-SPONS) a reaction to a change in the environment **(23)**

**root** (ROOT) the part of a plant that usually grows into the ground, anchoring the plant in place and absorbing water and nutrients from the soil **(12)**

**stem** (STEM) the part of a plant that usually grows above the ground and supports the plant **(13)**

**transpiration** (tran-spuh-RAY-shuhn) the loss of water from a plant, mainly through stomata in the leaves **(15)**

**vascular** (VAS-kyuh-lur) having bundles of tube-like vessels for transporting water, nutrients, and food throughout a plant **(11)**

**xylem** (ZYE-luhm) the tissue in a vascular plant that transports water and nutrients from the roots up through the plant **(11)**