Plant Function

Chs 38, 39 (parts), 40

KEB no office hour on Monday 23 March

10 March 2009
ECOL 182R UofA
K. E. Bonine

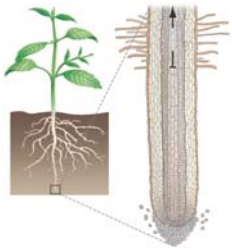
Videos:
39.3, 34.3, 39.1, 34.1
Web Browser Open

1

Video 39.3 Pollination of a night-blooming cactus by a bat

2

Plant Nutrition



182 Bonine
Spring 2009
10 March
(Freeman Ch38)

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How do plants get nutrients they need?

Usually from soil through roots. A few interesting exceptions…

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymnLpQNyI6g&feature=related

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- In addition to carbon dioxide and water, plants require essential nutrients.
- Most nutrients are available as ions dissolved in soil water and are taken up by roots.
- Nutrient absorption occurs via specialized proteins in plasma membranes of root cells. Most plants also obtain _____ or _____ from _____ associated with their roots.

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Nutritional Requirements

- early 1600s, classic experiment by van Helmont
- mass of a growing plant comes from soil?
- mass of a growing plant comes from water?
- [Most of the mass of the tree actually comes from _____ in the atmosphere]

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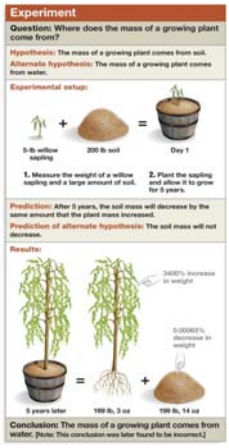

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Which Nutrients Are Essential?

- An _____ **nutrient:** required for both normal growth and reproduction and for a specific structure or metabolic function.
- There are 17 essential nutrients for most vascular plants.

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Which Nutrients Are Essential?

- Classified based on whether from water &/or carbon dioxide versus from ____.
- Essential nutrients available from H_2O or CO_2 are _____ They make up 96% of the plant.
- Soil elements can be divided into **macro**nutrients and **micro**nutrients.

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- **Macronutrients** are the building blocks of nucleic acids, proteins, carbohydrates, phospholipids, and other key molecules required in relatively large quantities. They are
  - nitrogen (N)
  - potassium (K)
  - calcium (Ca)
  - magnesium (Mg)
  - phosphorus (P)
  - sulfur (S).

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Which Nutrients Are Essential?

- **Limiting nutrients** are macronutrients that commonly act as limits on plant growth. _____ and _____ are often limiting nutrients.

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Which Nutrients Are Essential?

- **Micronutrients** are required in very small quantities. Rather than acting as components of macromolecules, they usually function as cofactors for specific enzymes. Examples include:
- iron, zinc, boron, copper, and nickel.

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nutritional deficiencies

- **Hydroponic growth** takes place in liquid cultures, without soil, so the availability of nutrients can be precisely controlled.

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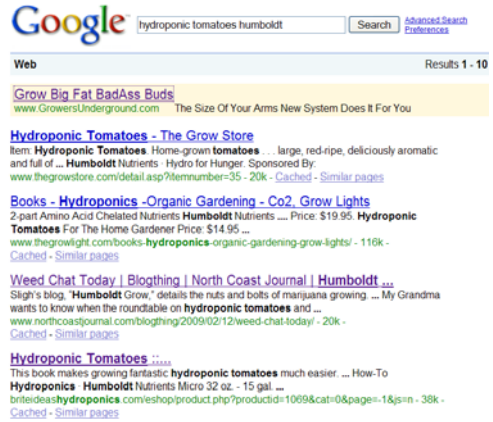

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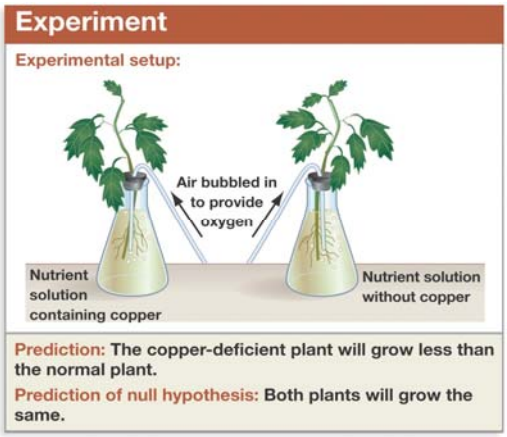

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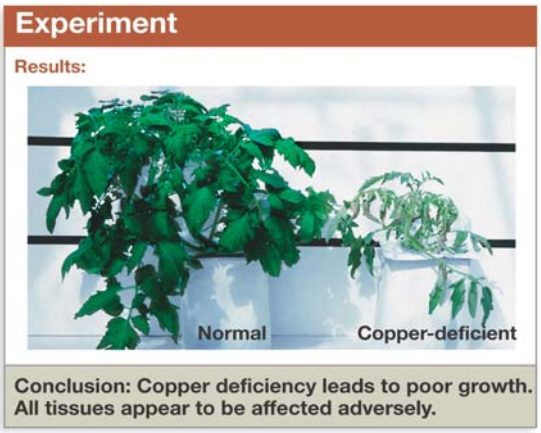
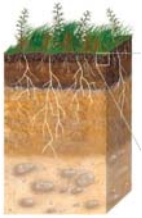


Soil

- **Weathering**—the forces applied by rain, running water, and wind—begins the process of building soil from solid rock.
- Particles derived from rocks are the first ingredient in soil. As organisms occupy the substrate, they add dead cells and tissues. This organic matter is called _____.
- Organic + Inorganic = Mature Soil



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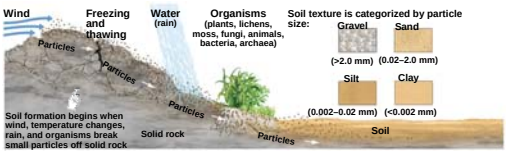
Soil Formation Begins with Erosion of Rock



Succession…

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What Factors Affect Nutrient Availability?

- Cations tend to bind to soil particles, while anions stay in solution.
- The loss of nutrients via washing is called **leaching**.

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What Factors Affect Nutrient Availability?

- Soil pH can also influence the availability of essential elements. Soils can be acidic (low pH) or alkaline (high pH).

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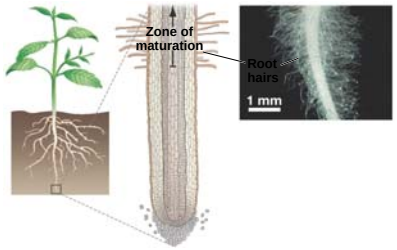
Root Hairs Increase the Surface Area Available for Nutrient Absorption



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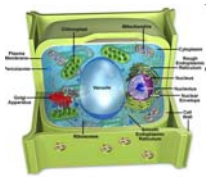
Mechanisms of Nutrient Uptake

- Plant cell walls are permeable to ions, small molecules, and even large molecules.
- The plasma membrane, however, is highly selective. Membrane proteins allow only specific ions to cross the plasma membrane.



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Establishing and Using a Proton Gradient

- Root-hair cells have **proton pumps** (H^+-ATPases) in their plasma membranes that move nutrients into the cell against a strong concentration gradient.

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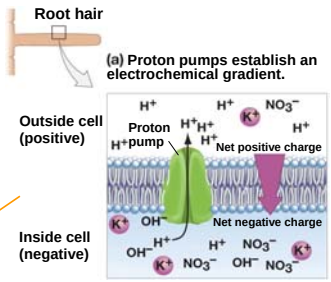
Ions Enter Roots along Electrochemical Gradients Created by _____



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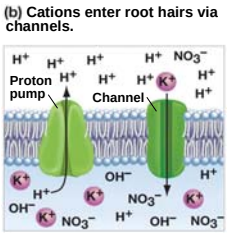
Cations Enter Roots via _____



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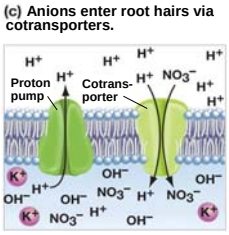
Anions Enter Roots via _____



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Cation vs Anion Nutrients

- Anions easier to get than cations
  - But anions can leach out of sandy soils
  - Anions better retained in clay soils
- Cations often bound to organic or inorganic soil particles
  - _____ (H^+ (proton)) for Mg^+ or K^+ or Ca^+ etc.
  - Plants facilitate by pumping H^+ out of root hairs

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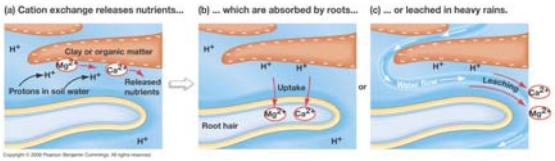

_____ H+ (proton) for Mg+ or K+ or Ca+ etc.

Plants facilitate by pumping H+ out of root hairs

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Nutrient Transfer via Mycorrhizal Fungi

- Vast majority of plants take up nutrients through their root hairs
- But, most need more nitrogen and phosphorus
- Help from fungi that live in close association with their roots.
- These fungi are called _____

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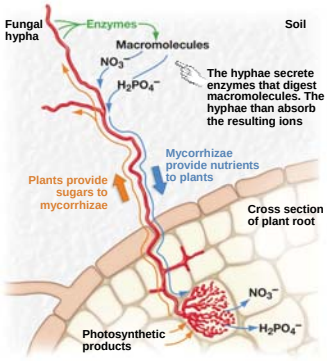

mycorrhizae provide _____ and/or _____ to the plants in exchange for sugar.

_____ mutualism

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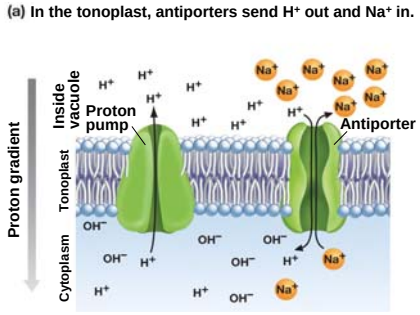
Not all soil ions are "good" for the plant

In Salt-Tolerant Plants, an _____ Concentrates Sodium in Vacuoles



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Why are these all found in the same habitat?

-Stagnant water
-Low oxygen levels
-Acidic
-Nutrient poor

BOGS _____

32

Some species of plant have specialized methods of obtaining nutrients, including associations with nitrogen-fixing bacteria, parasitism, and carnivory.

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Nitrogen Fixation

- Plants and other eukaryotes cannot use N_2 from the atmosphere.
- However, some _____ are able to absorb N_2 from the atmosphere and convert it to ammonia, nitrates, and nitrites in a process called **nitrogen** _____.

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Nitrogen Fixation

- Such bacteria often take up residence inside plant root cells.
- For example, members of the bacterial genus *Rhizobium* associate with plants in the pea family (legumes).
- **Rhizobia** (*Rhizobium* species and close relatives) are found in _____ on the roots of legumes and provide the plant with
- **ammonia in return for sugar and protection**

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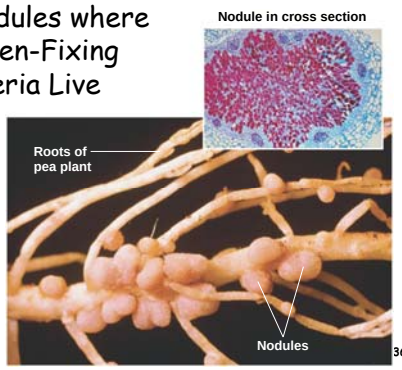
In Some Plants, Roots Form Nodules where Nitrogen-Fixing Bacteria Live



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Nutritional Adaptations of Plants

- Most plants use proton pumps as a mechanism for importing nutrients from the soil and/or acquire nutrients from symbiotes.
- In addition, 99% of plants make their own sugars.
- Some plants don't follow these rules, some appear to live on:
- 1) , some 2) others, some catch 3) .

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Epiphytic Plants

- **Epiphytes** are plants that are adapted to grow in the _____ They often grow on leaves or branches of trees.
- They absorb most of the water and nutrients they need from rainwater, dust, and particles that collect in their tissues or in the crevices of bark.

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Epiphytes Are Adapted to Grow in the Absence of Soil

(a) Epiphytes grow on trees (e.g., Bromeliads).

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Parasitic Plants

- Most parasitic plants make their own sugars through _____ and tap into the vascular tissue of their hosts for water and essential nutrients.
- Some plant parasites are nonphotosynthetic and obtain all their nutrition from the host.
- There are at least 3000 species of parasitic plants

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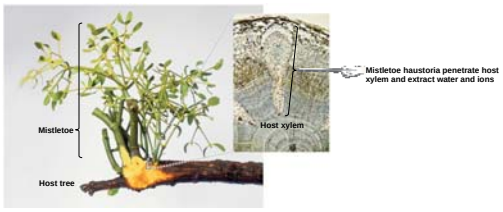
Some Plant Parasites Tap into the Xylem Tissue of Their Hosts



Mistletoe

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Carnivorous Plants

- **Carnivorous** plants use modified leaves to trap insects and other animals, kill them, and absorb the prey's nutrients.

- Carnivorous species make their own carbohydrates via photosynthesis but use carnivory to supplement the _____ available in the environment, which is often lacking.

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Sundews Have Modified Leaves with a Sticky Surface That Catches Insects

44