

Roots and Water



How does water enter a plant?

Water is one of the raw materials needed for plants to carry out photosynthesis.

How does water enter a plant?

Water from the soil enters a plant through the **roots**.

You can't normally see them, but roots are a very important part of a plant.

Why are roots branched and spread out through the soil?



How are roots adapted?

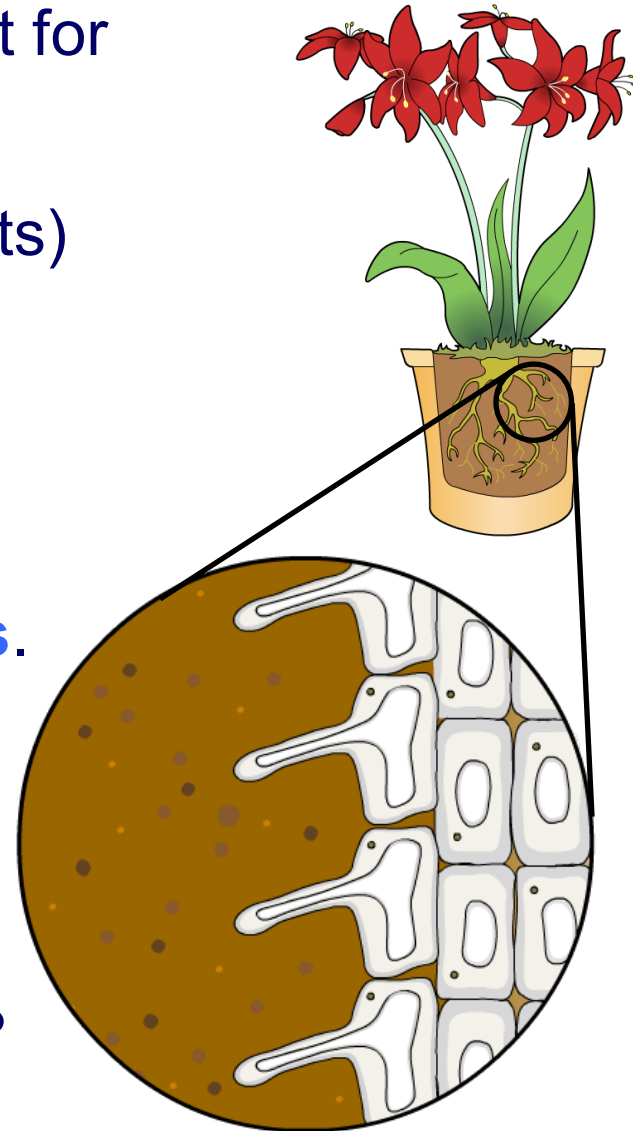
Roots are branched and spread out for two reasons:

- to absorb water (and mineral salts) from a large amount of soil
- to anchor the plant in the soil.

Taking a closer look, we see that roots are covered in **root hair cells**.

Root hair cells have thin walls and a large surface area to help them absorb lots of water.

How are roots adapted to their job?



Why do plants need water?

Plants need water for photosynthesis but this important liquid is also used in many other ways:

- to provide dissolved minerals that keep the plant healthy
- to transport substances around the plant
- to keep the plant rigid and upright
- to keep the plant cool
- to allow other chemical reactions to occur in plant cells.



What happens to a plant if it does not get enough water?

