

# Hungry Plants

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## Where do plants go when they're hungry?

Nowhere. They can't move so the food comes to them...



## It's all in the soil!!

Plants need nutrients just like humans do, the sun is not enough by itself. These nutrients are taken in from the soil by the roots of growing plants and carried through the roots into the growing plant above ground.

## Where does plant food come from?

- Rock breakdown
- Rotting of organic matter (plants and animal bits)

In nature, nutrients are constantly recycling between soils and plants. Dead plants fall to the ground and are broken down to release nutrients, which then take part in the next cycle of growth.

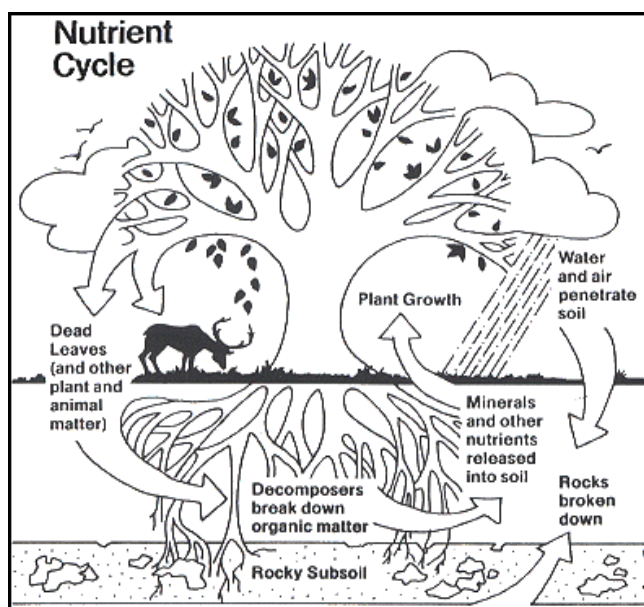
In agriculture, when the crop is harvested, most of the nutrients in the plants are also removed from the field and important recycling of nutrients is not possible. The farmer must therefore add extra nutrients to the soil.

## What do plants like to eat?

There are 18 nutrients in soil that are important to plants. Like us, plants need a balanced diet and without all the nutrients they can't grow properly and may die.

Some lack **macro-nutrients** (including nitrogen, calcium, magnesium and potassium).

Some lack **micro-nutrients** (including iron, zinc, copper, and boron).



It's the "circle of life"!

