

4.1.3 Air

Plants need oxygen for respiration, which they receive from the soil through the roots and only a small amount directly from the air. Carbon dioxide also contains oxygen. Carbon is vital for plants since it is used to build tissue. Plants excrete it during respiration and, since it is a relatively heavy element, it accumulates in the lower parts of the atmosphere, which is where plants grow. Most plants grow optimally when the level of carbon dioxide in the air is 10 times higher than the average.

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