



Plants break rock mechanically when their growing roots cause cracks.

Johnida Dockens,
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From Rock to Soil

Plants don't just grow in soil—they help make it.

Soil is broken-down rock mixed with organic material. Plants break rock chemically when they release carbon dioxide (CO₂) through their roots, which triggers reactions that erode rock and minerals.

Dead plant remains contribute nutrients to soil, too.

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Food to Share, But Plants Don't Care

Plants make carbohydrates via photosynthesis using carbon dioxide, water, and the sun's energy. This doesn't just feed the plants—it feeds almost all animals as well.

But it's important to remember that nature is about survival: plants photosynthesize for their own needs, not to feed other organisms.



Nearly all land-based food webs would collapse without plants.

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