

Where It Starts: Photosynthesis





Photosynthesis

Metabolic Pathways

Converts light energy to chemical energy.



Photoautotrophs

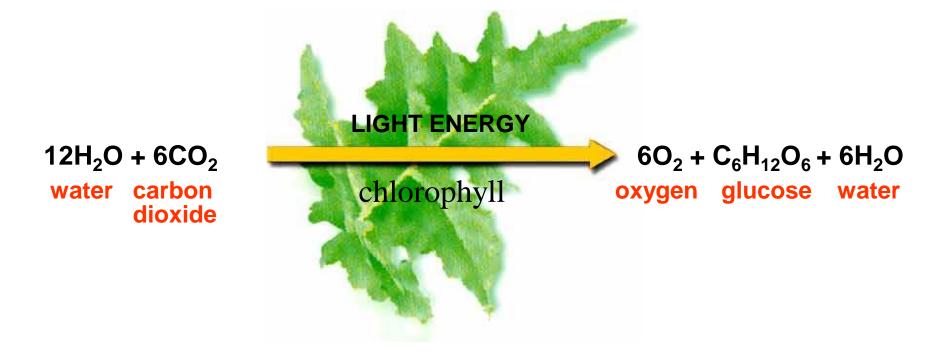
Organisms that can perform photosynthesis

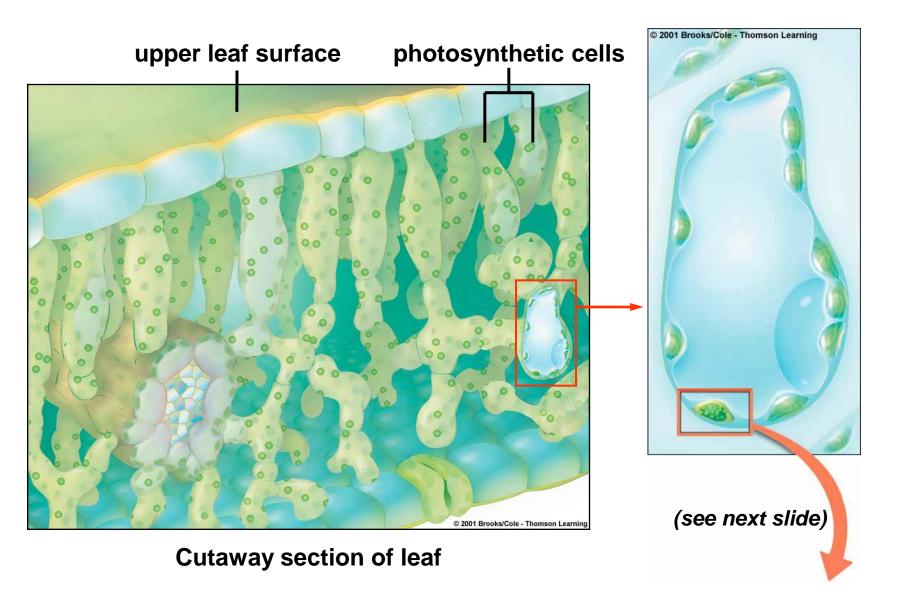
★Cyanobacteria (prokaryotic-no chloroplast)

*Plants

*Algae

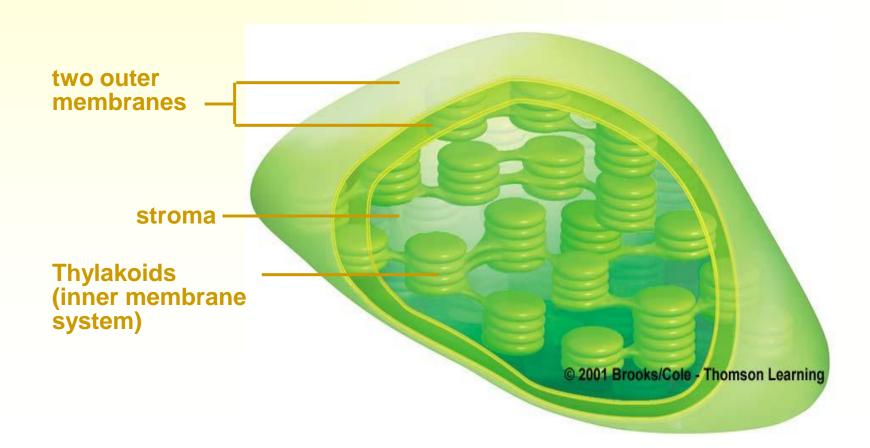
Photosynthesis Equation



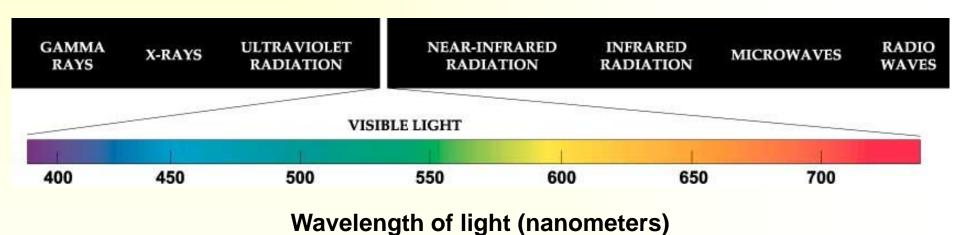


Chloroplast

Photosynthetic organelle in plants and algae



Different Types of Energy





Visible Light Spectrum

- **★**Composed of different colors
- **★** Violet (380 nm) to red (750 nm)
- *Longer wavelengths, lower energy



Pigments

****** Chemicals that interact with visible light

** Absorbed colors/wavelength (not seen)

** Reflect colors/wavelength (color seen)



Variety of Plant Pigment

** Photosynthetic Pigments

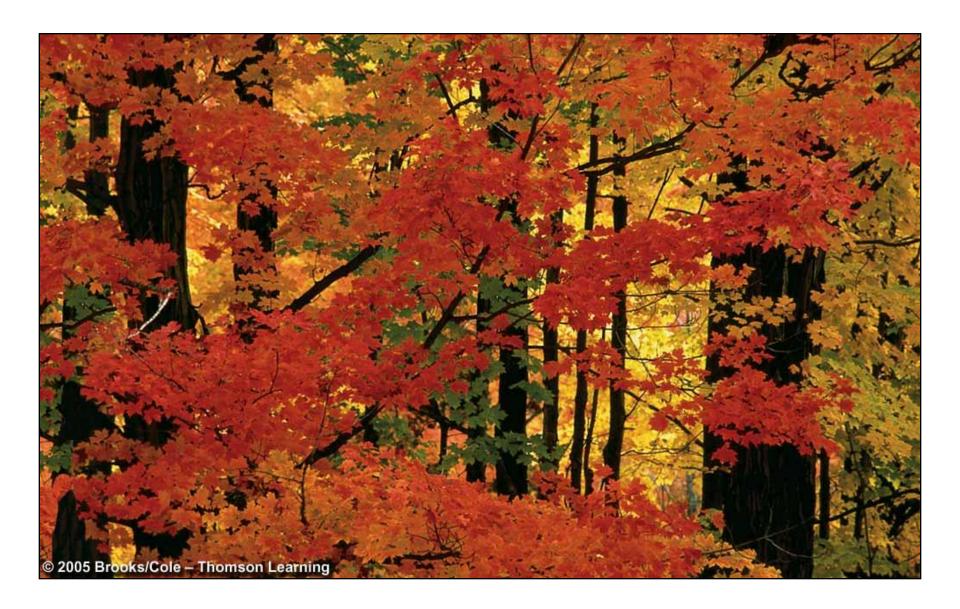
Chlorophylls

** Accessory Pigments

Carotenoids

Anthocyanins

Phycobilins





Photosynthesis.... a Two-Step Process

- 1. Light-dependent reactions
- 2. Light-independent reaction



Light Dependant Reactions

Pigments

Electron transport chain

ATP Production



Photosystems

*****Capture light energy

★Two types (I and II)

- **★**Composed of....
 - Antenna pigments (accessory pigments)
 - Reaction center (chlorophyll)



Electron Transfer Chains

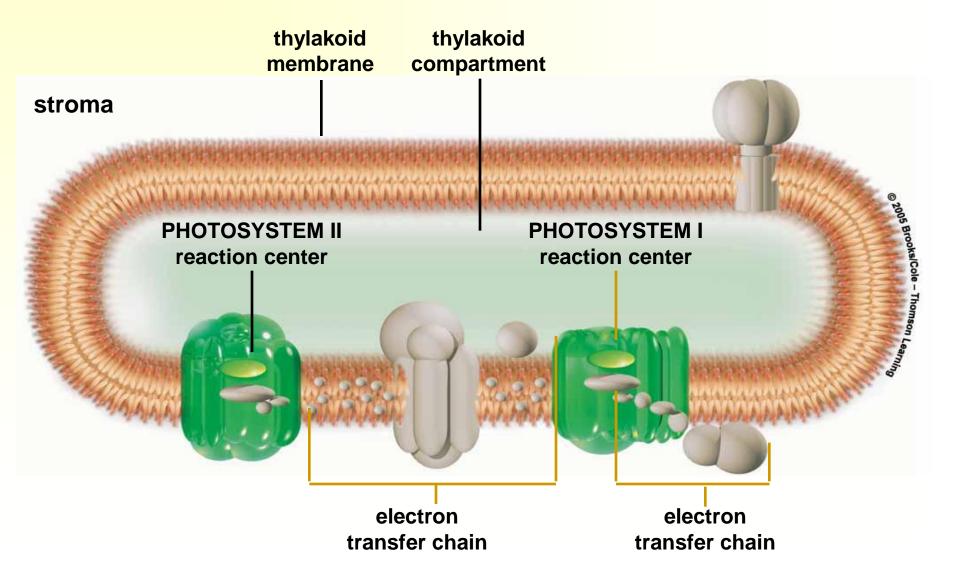


*Accepts electrons from reaction center

★Electrons pass along chain

*ATP generated.

Thylakoid Membrane Section





Light-Dependent Reactions

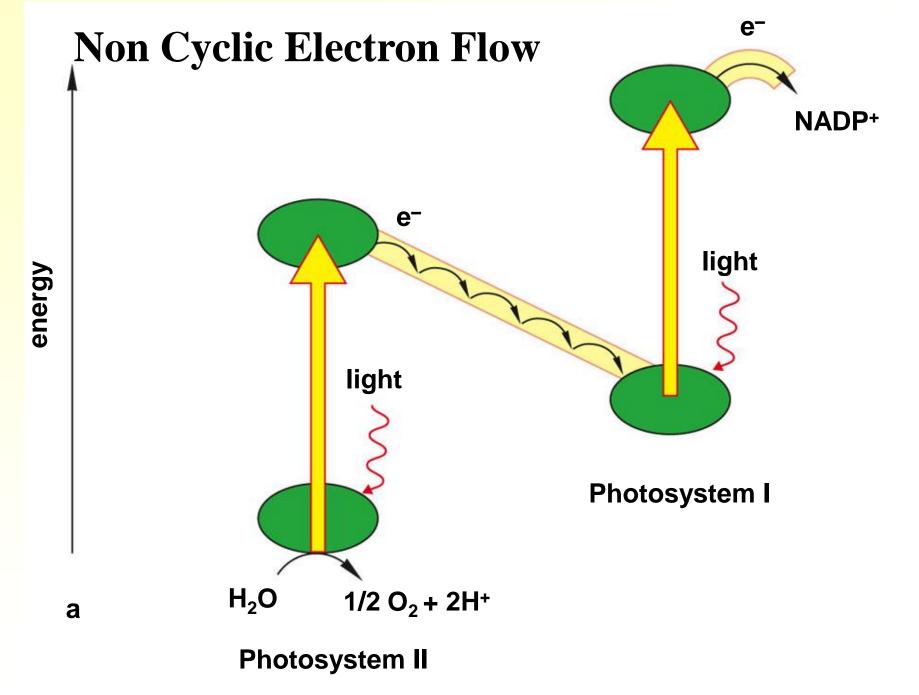
Two variants

- 1. Noncyclic pathway
- 2. Cyclic pathway



Noncyclic Electron Flow

- **★**Two-step pathway
- **★**Uses both photosystems (I and II)
- **★**Produces ATP and NADPH
- **★**Split water
- **★**Release oxygen



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ATP Synthesis Noncyclic Pathway

- **★**H⁺ concentrated in thylakoid
- **★**H⁺ Passive transport through ATP synthase
- *ATP produced
- *Chemiosmosis

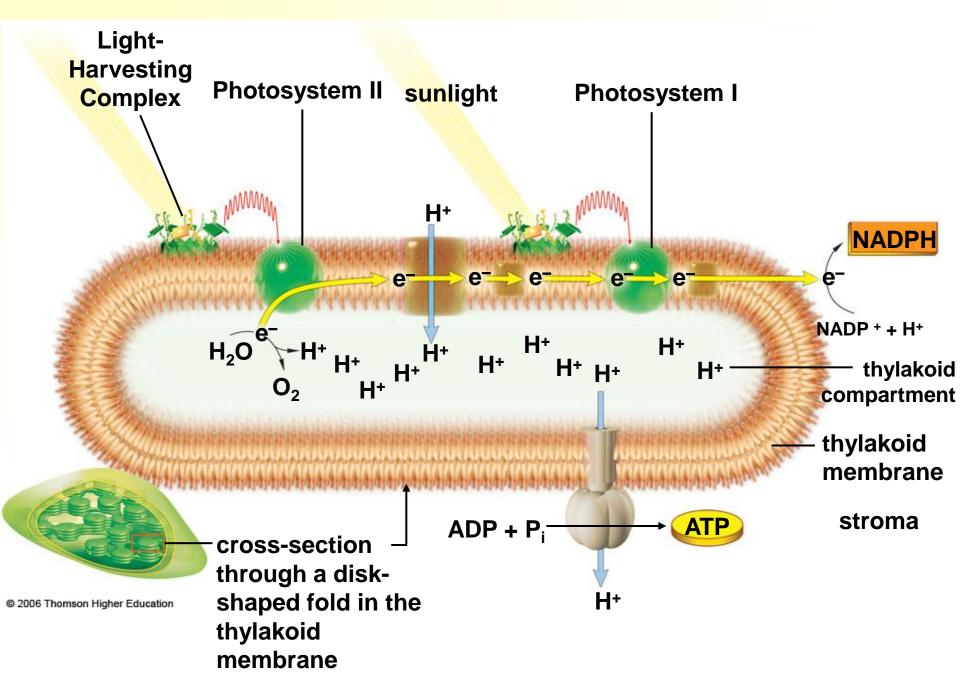


Fig. 5-7, p.77



Non Cyclic Electron Flow: Summary

Reactants

- Location: Thylakoid Membranes
- * Light
- ★ Photosystem I and II with Chlorophyll
- **★** Water
- ***** Electron Transport Chains
- * ADP
- **★** NADP⁺

Products

- **★** Oxygen
- * ATP
- * NADPH



Cyclic Electron Flow

- **★** Photosystem I only
- * Electrons
 - Donated by chlorophyll a
 - Passed to electron transfer chain
 - Passed back to photosystem I
- **★** Electron flow drives ATP formation
- * No NADPH is formed

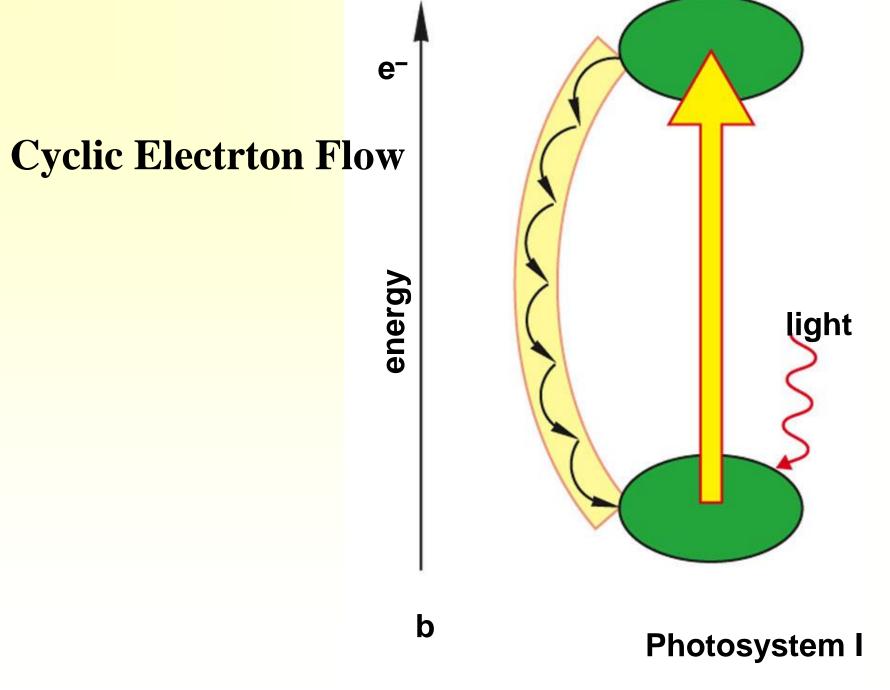


Fig. 5-6b, p.76



Cyclic Electron Flow: Summary

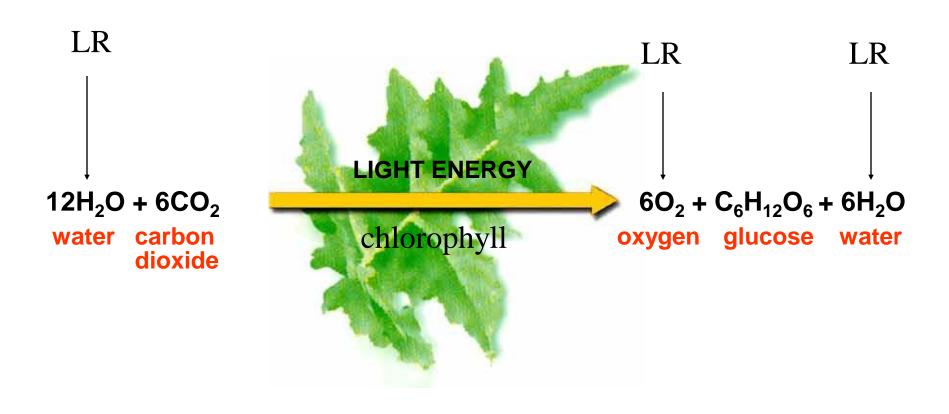
Reactants

- Location: ThylakoidMembranes
- * Light
- Photosystem I with Chlorophyll
- * Electron Transport Chain
- * ADP

Products

* ATP

Photosynthesis Equation





Light Independent reaction

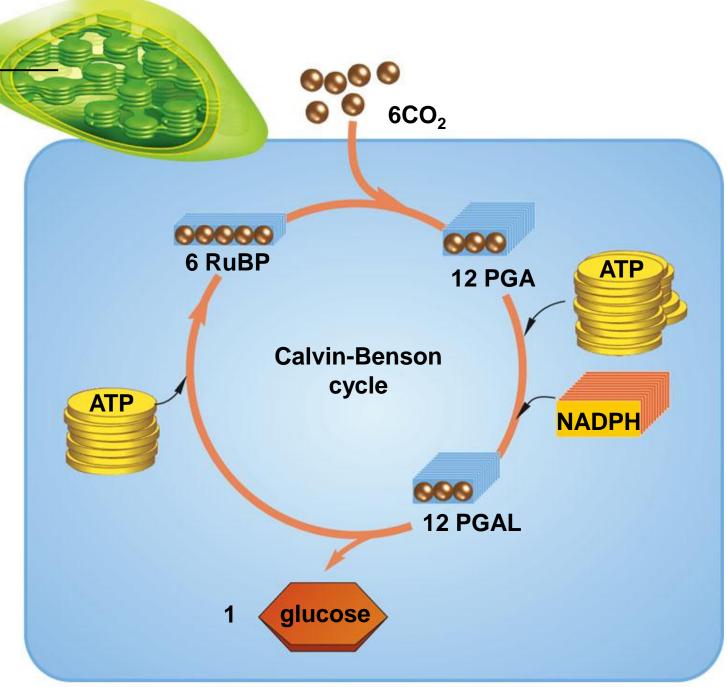
Synthesis of glucose



Light-Independent reaction

- **★**Fixes carbon dioxide
- **★**Synthesizes sugar
- **★**Independent of light
- **★**Take place in the stroma
- **★**Calvin-Benson cycle

THESE
REACTIONS
PROCEED IN THE
CHLOROPLAST'S
STROMA



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Light Independent reaction

* Reactants

Carbon dioxide

-ATP

- NADPH

– RuBP

* Products

- Glucose

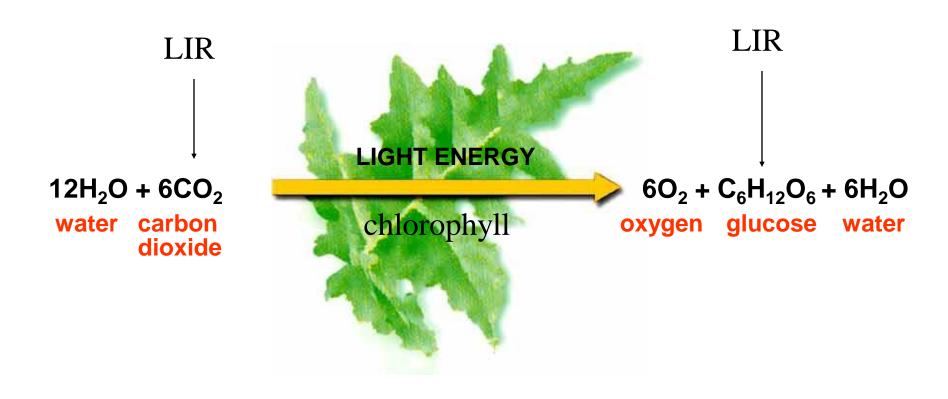
-ADP

 $-NADP^{+}$

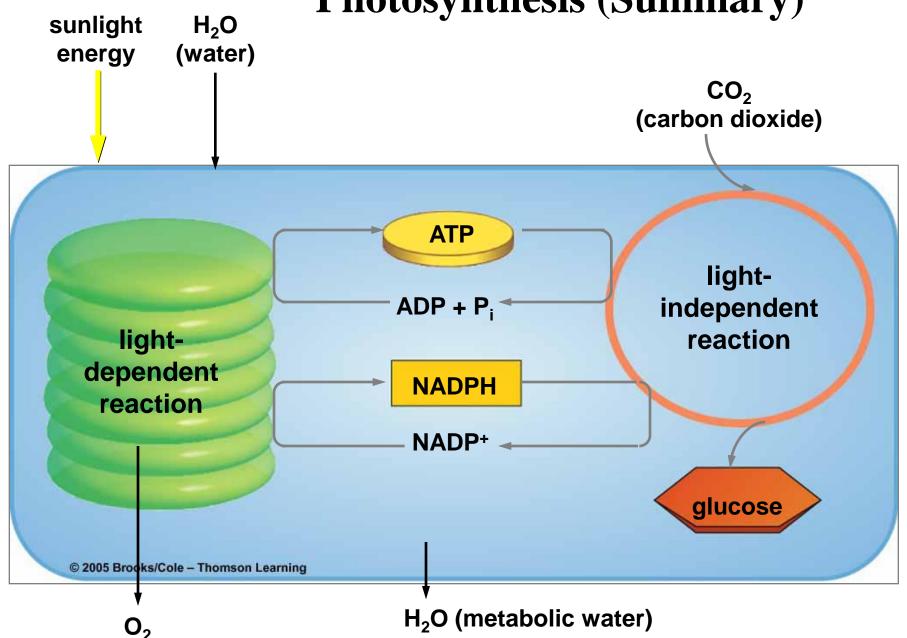
- RuBP

Reaction pathway is cyclic and RuBP (ribulose bisphosphate) is used and produced

Photosynthesis Equation



Photosynthesis (Summary)





The C3 Pathway

★ The standard photysynthesis pathway

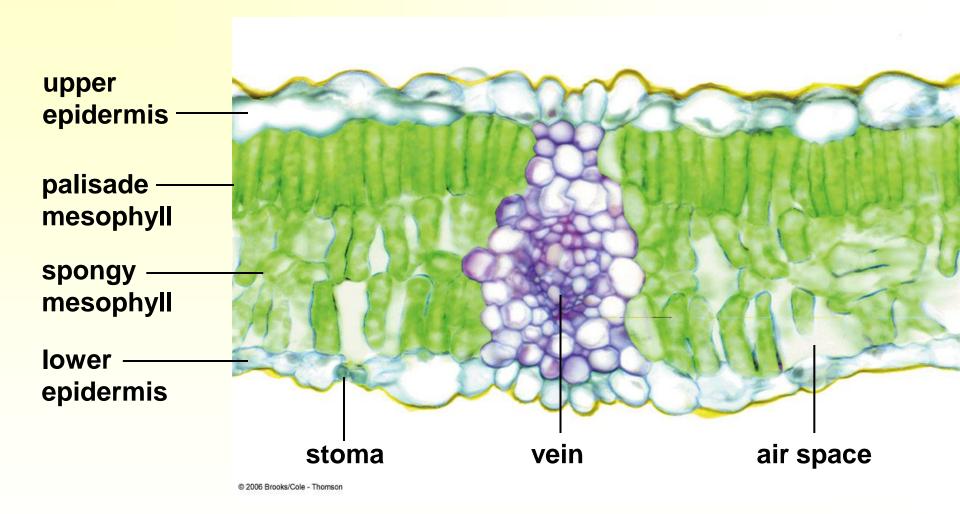
* The first stable intermediate is a three-carbon PGA

★ Because the first intermediate has three carbons, the pathway is called the C3 pathway



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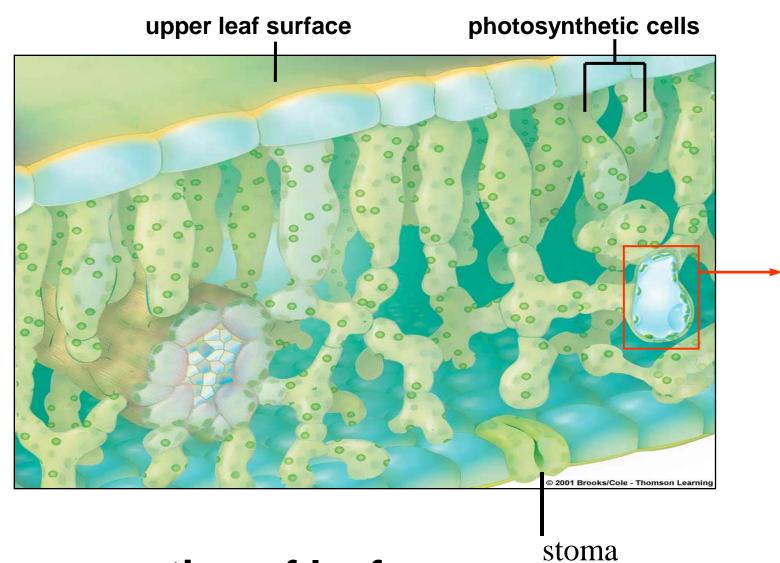
Leaves of basswood, a typical C3 plant. Far right, basswood leaf cross section.





Photorespiration in C3 Plants

- **★On hot, dry days stomata close**
- **★**Inside leaf
 - Oxygen levels rise
 - Carbon dioxide levels drop
- ★RuBP bonds to oxygen instead of carbon dioxide
- **★**Only one PGAL forms instead of two glucose



Cutaway section of leaf

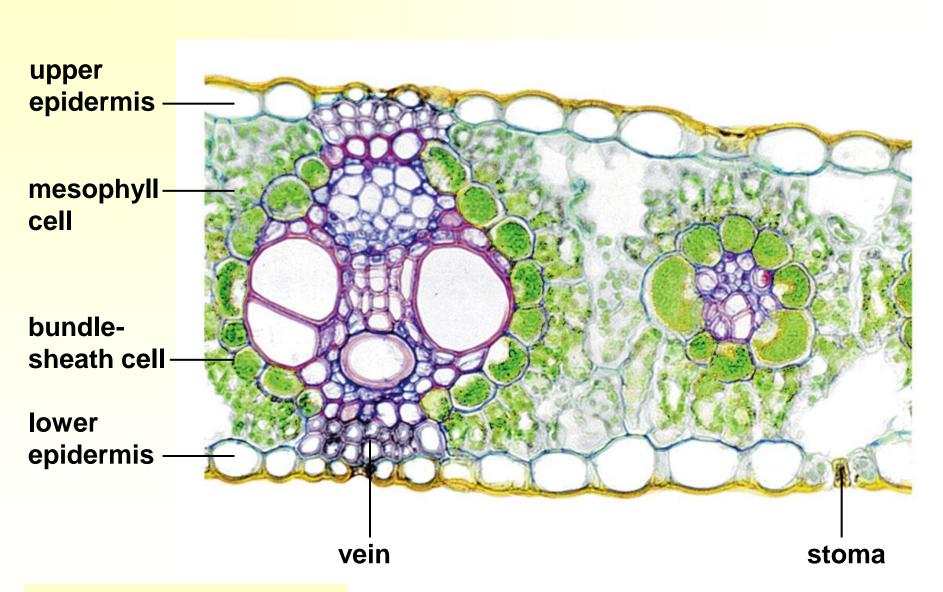


C4 Plants

- * Carbon dioxide is fixed twice
 - Carbon dioxide is stored as a four carbon compound
 - Carbon dioxide is released from the compound for use in Calvin-Benson cycle
- * Evolutionary defense against photorespiration
- **★** Corn and Crabgrass are examples



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Corn leaf, cross-section

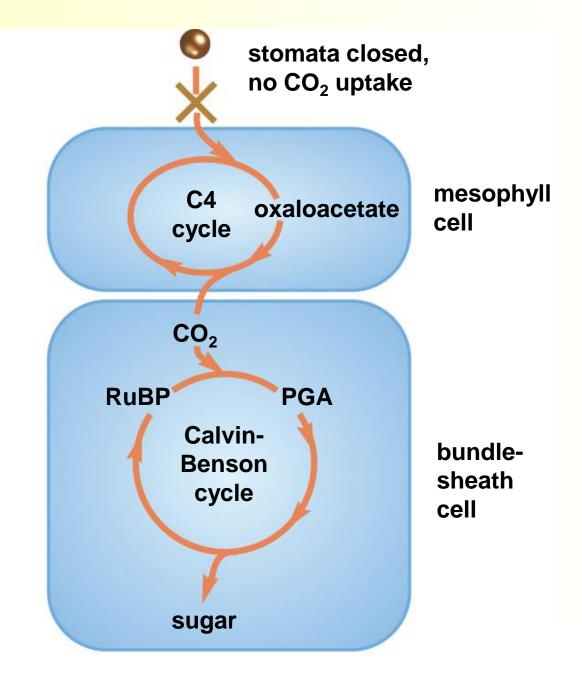


Fig. 5-9b, p.79



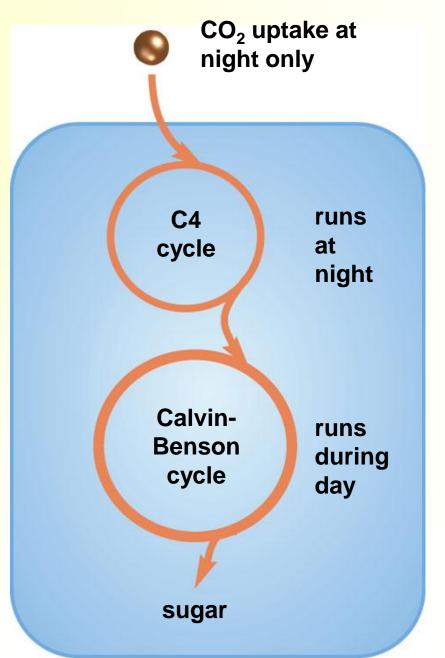
CAM Plants

- ***** Carbon is fixed twice (in same cells)
- * Night
 - Stomates open for gas exchange.
 - Carbon dioxide is fixed by repeated turns of a type of C4 cycle
- **★** Day
 - Carbon dioxide is released and fixed in Calvin-Benson cycle
- **★** Cacti and other fleshy plants



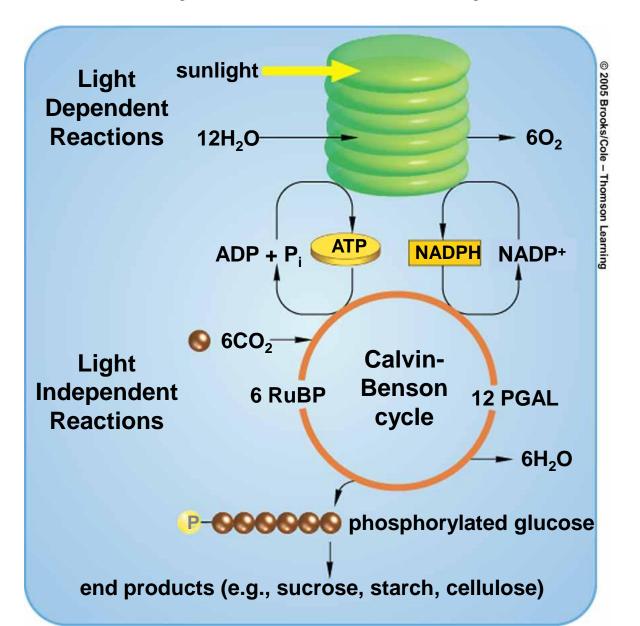
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Fig. 5-10, p.79



mesophyll cell

Summary of Photosynthesis





Carbon and Energy Sources

* Photoautotrophs

- Carbon source is carbon dioxide
- Energy source is sunlight

* Heterotrophs

 Get carbon and energy by eating autotrophs or one another



Linked Processes

Photosynthesis

- Energy-storing pathway
- * Releases oxygen
- * Requires carbon dioxide

Aerobic Respiration

- Energy-releasing pathway
- * Requires oxygen
- * Releases carbon dioxide