

Leaf structure

State two features of most leaves that help photosynthesis.

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Which leaf cells carry out most photosynthesis, and why?

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How do air spaces in the spongy mesophyll help photosynthesis?

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What do stomata and guard cells do?

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What do xylem and phloem do in a leaf?

Palisade mesophyll: tall cells near the upper surface with many chloroplasts that absorb the most light.

They have a large surface area and are thin.

Stomata are pores that let gases diffuse in and out. Guard cells open and close them.

Carbon dioxide diffuses through them to the photosynthesising cells, and oxygen diffuses out.

Xylem brings water to the leaf. Phloem carries sucrose away.