

The Largest Plants

Trees are the largest of all plants. They provide homes for birds and other animals, and they protect us from the sun and the wind. But trees are important in other ways, too.

Wood from trees helps us build our homes and furniture. Wood gives us pulp for paper which goes into making plastic. Some trees produce the milky material that is used to create rubber. Other trees provide substances used in medicines.

Trees give us many foods, too, such as grapefruits, olives, chocolate, coconuts, and walnuts. In many states, vast orchards make large quantities of cherries, peaches, figs, plums, and apples.

Trees have three parts. The roots hold the tree in the ground. They soak up water and vitamins needed to help the tree grow. The trunk and branches carry sap and hold the leaves in the sunlight. The leaves make the tree's food. Leaves use the light from the sun to take a gas called carbon dioxide from the air. The leaves mix this gas with oxygen and water to make the food the tree needs to grow.

1. Name three foods we get from trees.
2. Name one thing in this room that comes from trees.