

SENSATIONAL SEA PLANTS



SEAGRASSES

Seagrasses are flowering plants that grow in clusters or meadows under the ocean. They have roots, leaves and flowers and are related to flowering plants on land. They grow in sunlit, shallow waters in both tropical and temperate oceans. Their root systems help to reduce sand erosion by holding the sand together. Seagrasses can be lost when water quality is affected by pollution.

COLOURS OF THE RAINBOW

Seaweed is also known as algae. Some are from the plant kingdom, and they all use sunlight to create their energy. There are over 1000 species of seaweed in Southern Australia, and over 50,000 worldwide. They can be grouped by colour; green, brown and red. There are more red seaweeds than green and brown, as they are able to live in deeper ocean habitats with less sunlight.



FOOD FROM THE SEA

Seaweed is not only enjoyed in sushi. The special properties of various seaweeds are used to make up many different foods and other products. An extract from red seaweeds called carrageenan is used to help thicken pudding desserts, while those from brown seaweeds are used widely in ice cream, bakery products and jam. Seaweed is also a great source of Omega 3 fatty acids, usually sourced from fish.

CARBON CAPTURE

Seaweed is thought to be a useful tool in the fight against climate change. The ocean is responsible for absorbing a lot of the carbon dioxide from our atmosphere, and fast-growing seaweed is able to capture some of this. The seaweed is then eaten by animals, or carbon stored on the seafloor as it dies. This means it is not released back into the atmosphere. The term for oceanic carbon capture is called 'blue carbon'.



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Find out more: <http://seaweed.ie/index.php>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/08/forest-s-of-seaweed-can-help-climate-change-without-fire/>