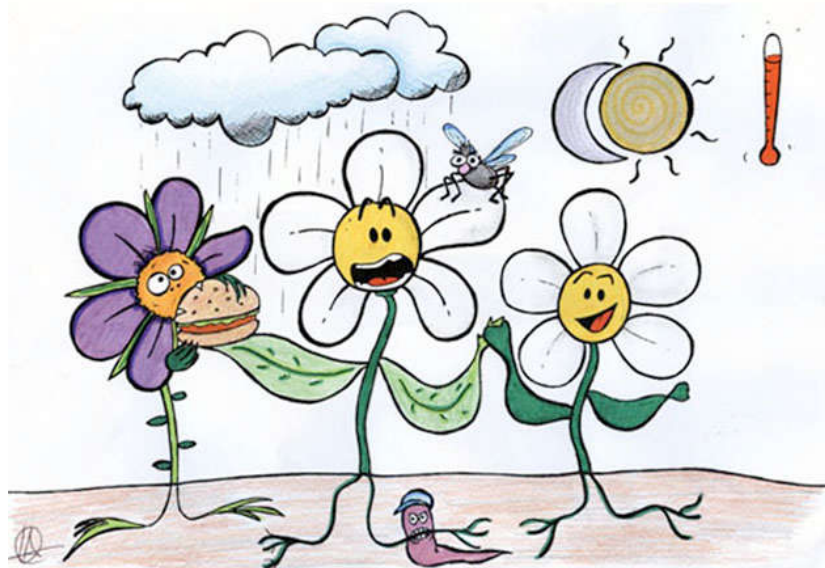
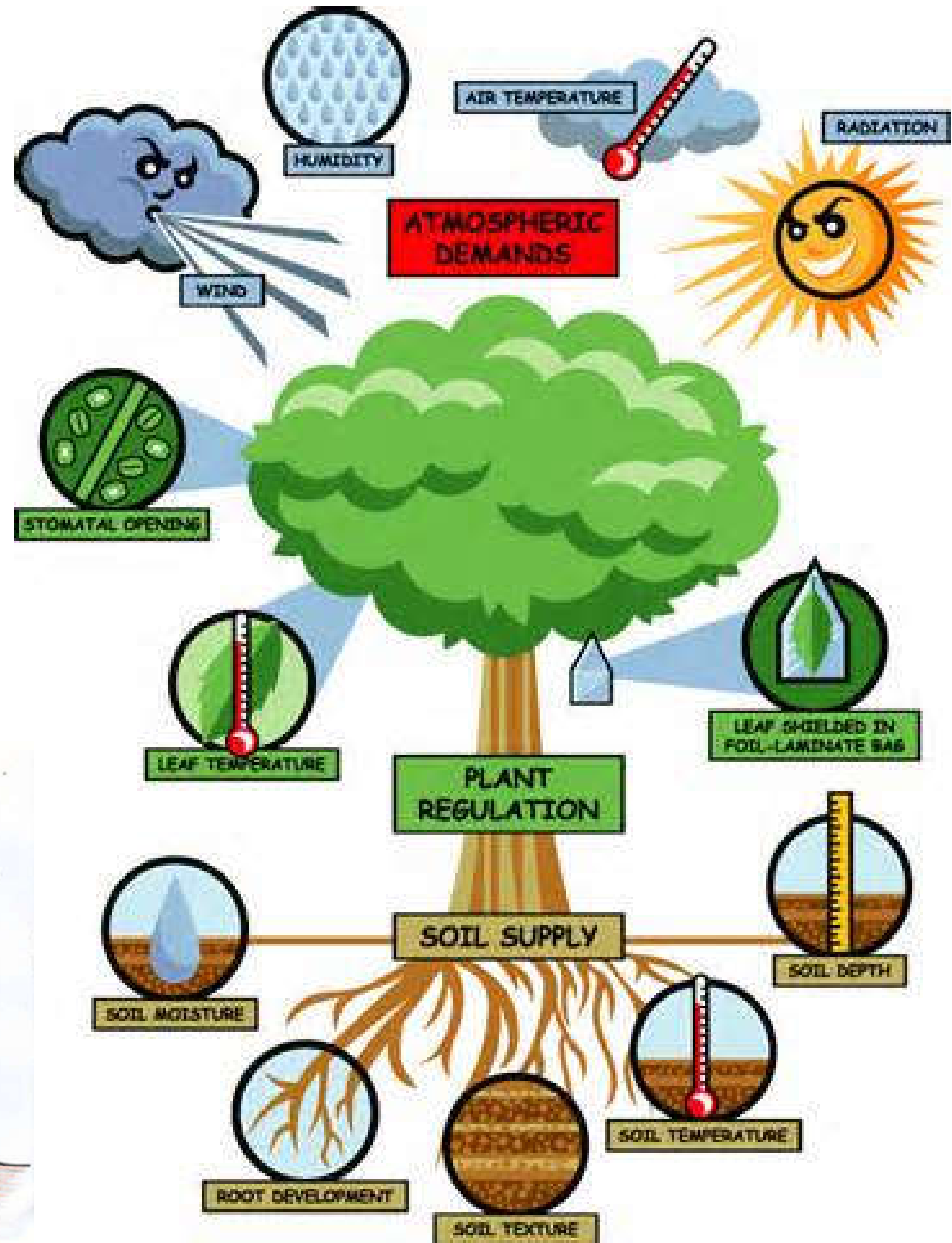


# Chapter 45

## Plant Responses to the Environment



# Chapter 45 At a Glance

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- 45.1 What Are Some Major Plant Hormones?
- 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?
- 45.3 How Do Plants Communicate, Defend Themselves, and Capture Prey?

# 45.1 What Are Some Major Plant Hormones?

---



**Frits Went, 1903-1990**

“.....characterized by the property of serving as **chemical messengers**, by which the activity of certain organs is coordinated with that of others”.

*-Frits Went and Kenneth Thimann, 1937*



**Kenneth Thimann, 1904-1997**

## **Phytohormones:**

- signal molecules, chemicals
- a little amount of hormone is required
- act locally or in a long distance manner (**2 hints**)
- regulate cellular processes and plant development etc.

# 45.1 What Are Some Major Plant Hormones?

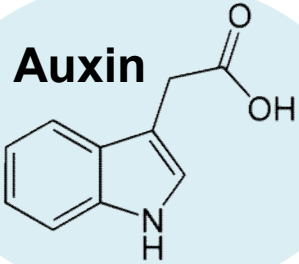
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- Classical phytohormones
  1. Auxins (植物生长激素)
  2. Gibberellins (赤霉素)
  3. Cytokinins (细胞分裂素)
  4. Ethylene (乙烯)
  5. Abscisic acid (脱落酸)
  6. Florigen (成花素)

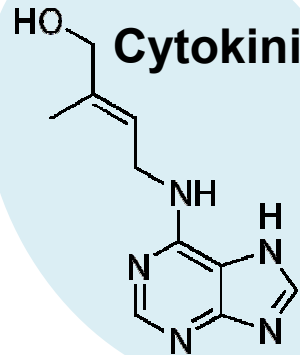
# Phytohormones – old timers and newcomers

Some comes in groups!

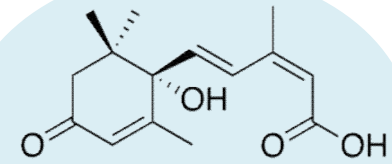
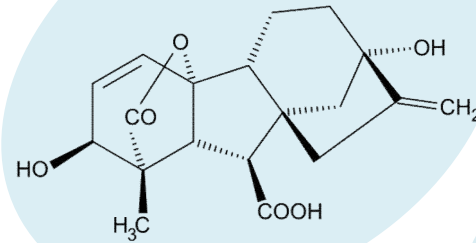
**Auxin**



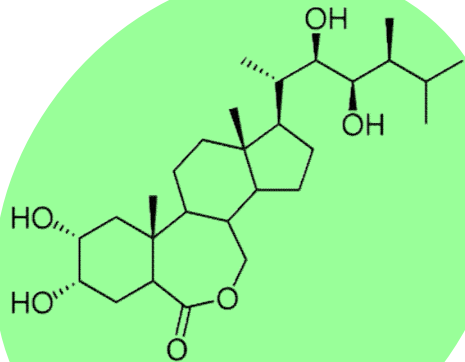
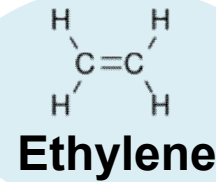
**Cytokinin**



**Gibberellic Acid**

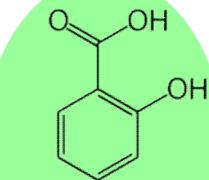


**Abscisic Acid**



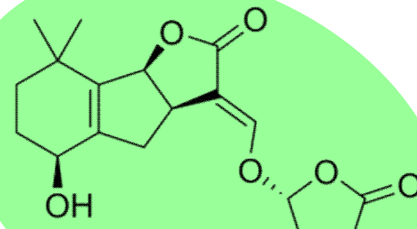
**Brassinosteroid**

油菜素内酯



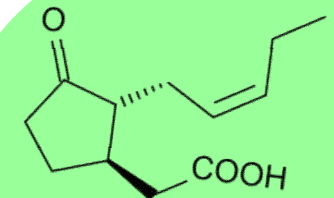
**Salicylic Acid**

水杨酸



**Strigolactone**

独脚金内酯



**Jasmonic Acid**

茉莉酸

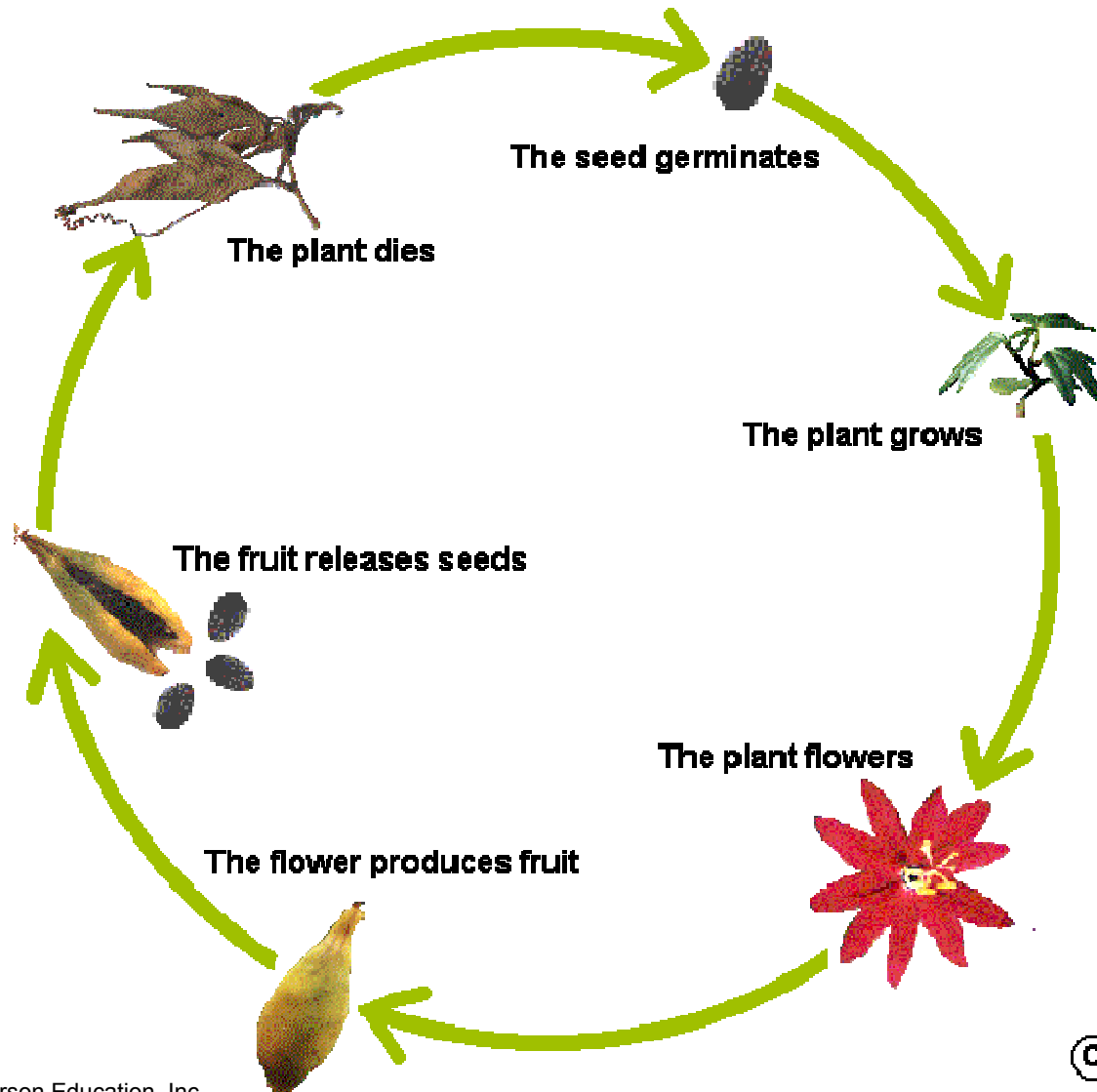
Table 45-1 Some Major Plant Hormones and Their Functions

TABLE 45-1 Some Major Plant Hormones and Their Functions		
Hormone	Some Major Effects	Major Sites of Synthesis
Auxins	Promote cell elongation in shoots Inhibit growth of lateral buds (apical dominance) Promote root branching Control phototropism and gravitropism in shoots and roots Stimulate vascular tissue development Stimulate fruit development Delay senescence of leaves and fruit	Shoot apical meristem
Gibberellins	Stimulate stem elongation by promoting cell division and cell elongation Stimulate fruit development, and seed germination	Shoot apical meristem Plant embryos Young leaves
Cytokinins	Stimulate cell division throughout the plant Stimulate lateral bud sprouting Inhibit formation of branch roots Delay senescence of leaves and flowers	Root apical meristem
Ethylene	Promotes growth of shorter, thicker stems in response to mechanical disturbance Stimulates ripening in some fruits Promotes senescence in leaves Promotes leaf and fruit drop	Throughout the plant, particularly during stress and aging
Absciscic acid	Causes stomata to close Inhibits stem growth and stimulates root growth in response to drought Maintains dormancy in buds and seeds	Throughout the plant
Florigens	Stimulate flowering in response to day length	Mature leaves

**Growth promoting: Auxin, Gibberellins (GA), Brassinosteroids (BR), cytokinins (CK)**

**Stress-related hormones: Salicylic acid (SA), Absciscic acid (ABA), Ethylene (ET), Jasmonic acid (JA)**

# 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?



## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

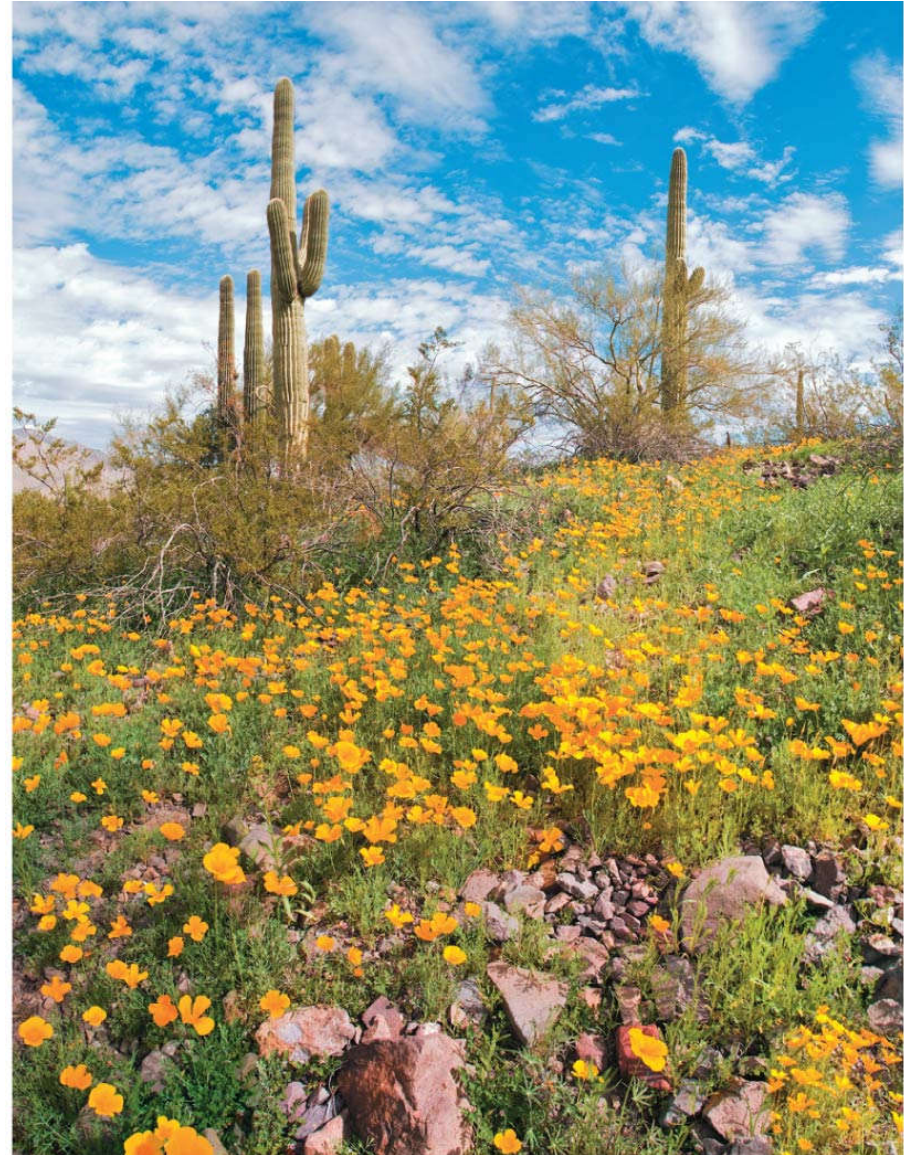
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- Each plant life cycle begins with a seed
  - Two hormones play major roles in seed germination
    1. Abscisic acid
      - maintains seed dormancy
    2. Gibberellin
      - stimulates seed germination



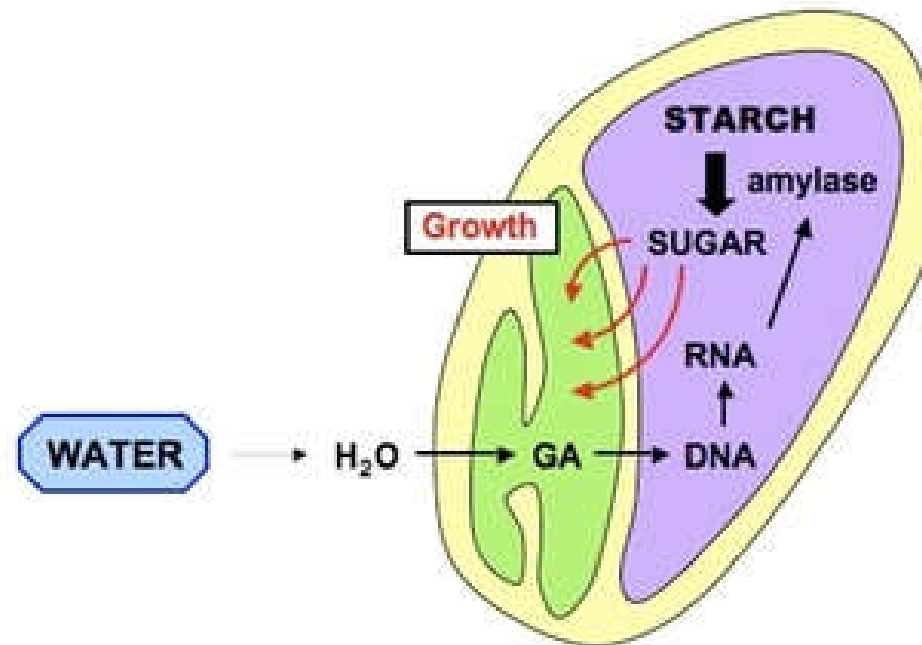
## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

- Abscissic acid **maintains seed dormancy**
  - prolonged cold reduces the amount of abscissic acid within the seed
  - It requires a hard rain to wash the hormone away



## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

- **Gibberellin stimulates seed germination**
  - Gibberellin **activates** genes that code for **enzymes** that break down the stored starch and reserves of the endosperm



## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

---

- Auxin controls the **orientation** of the sprouting seedling
  - **tropisms (向性)**: growth toward or away from stimuli
  - **directional cues**
    - **light**: phototropism (向光性)
    - **gravity**: gravitropism (向地性)
    - **Thigmotropism (向触性)**, a directional movement or change in growth in response to touch

## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

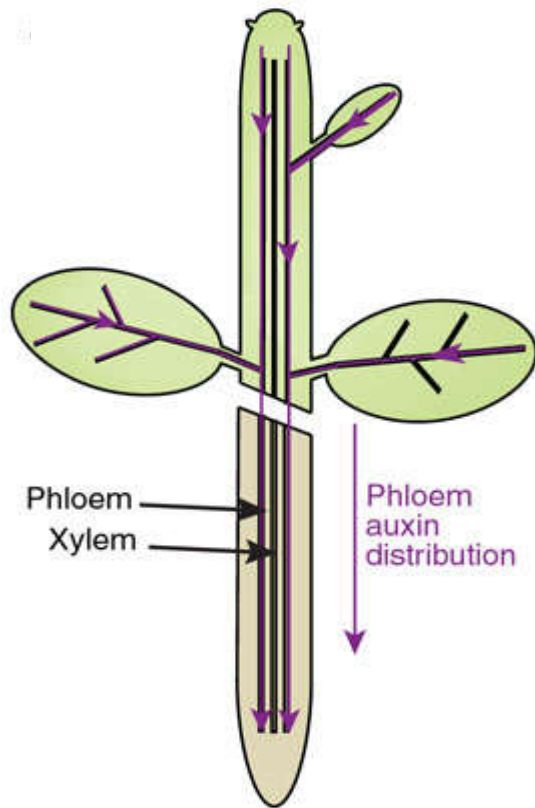
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- Auxin stimulates shoot elongation away from gravity and toward light



# Polar Auxin Transport (生长素的极性运输)

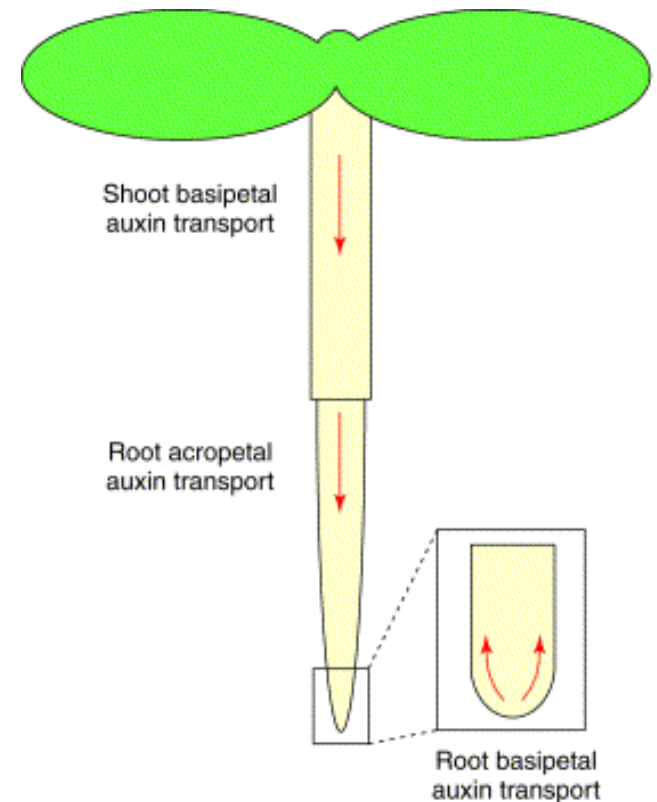
Auxin is synthesized in the **shoot and root apical meristem**



Auxin moves long distances through the **phloem**.

Auxin also moves via **auxin transport proteins, such as PINs**

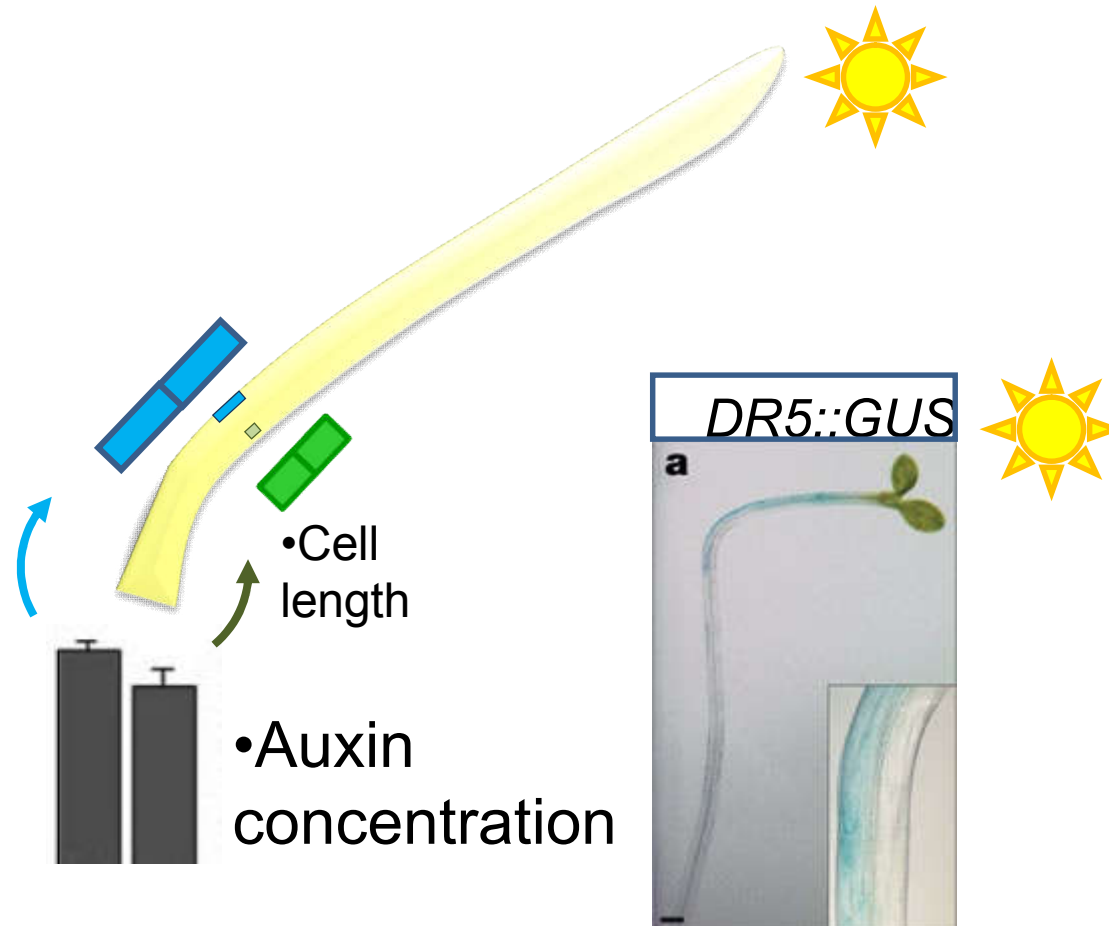
Auxin normally moves from the tip of the shoot towards the tip of the root. At the root tip, auxin changes direction and moves short distances up the root again (basipetally).



TRENDS in Plant Science

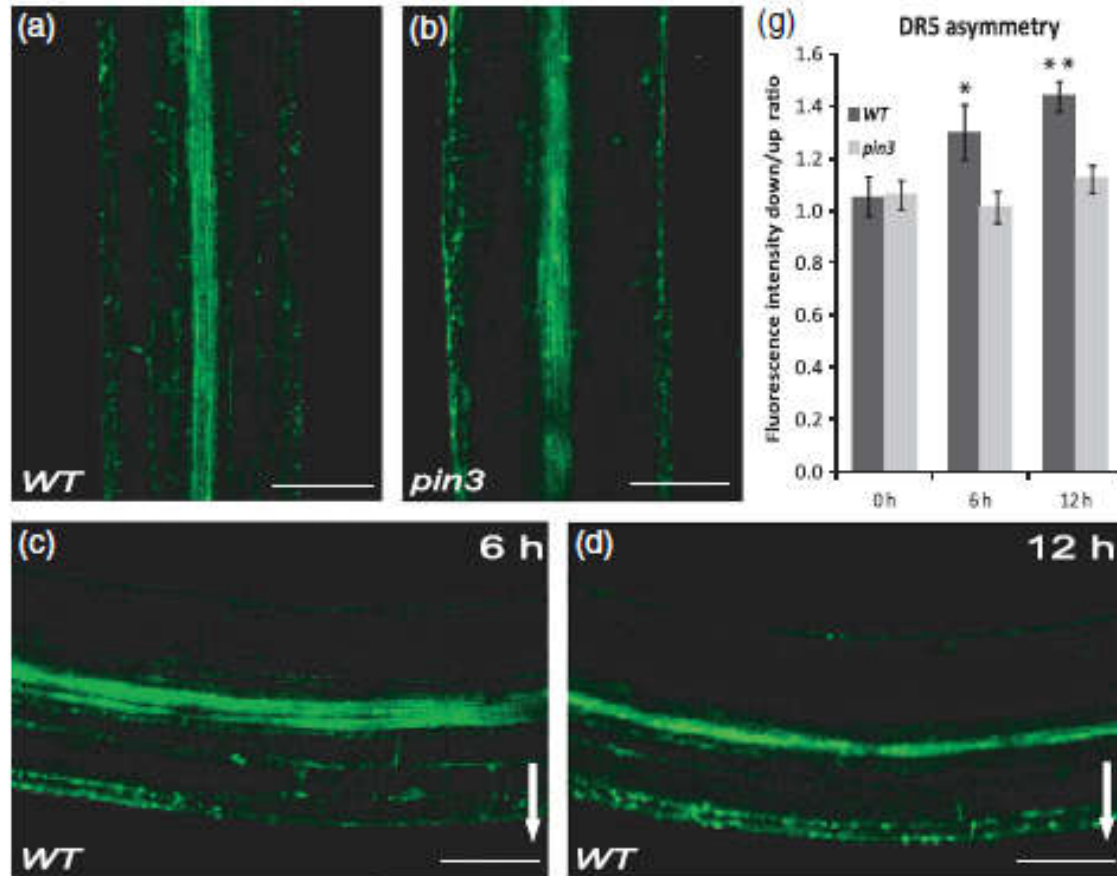
Reprinted with permission from Macmillan Publishers, Ltd. Robert, H.S., and Friml, J. (2009) Auxin and other signals on the move in plants. *Nat. Chem. Biol.* 5: 325-332. Reprinted from Muday, G.K., and DeLong, A. (2001). Polar auxin transport: Controlling where and how much. *Trends Plant Sci.* 6: 535-542, with permission from Elsevier.

# Auxin controls phototropism



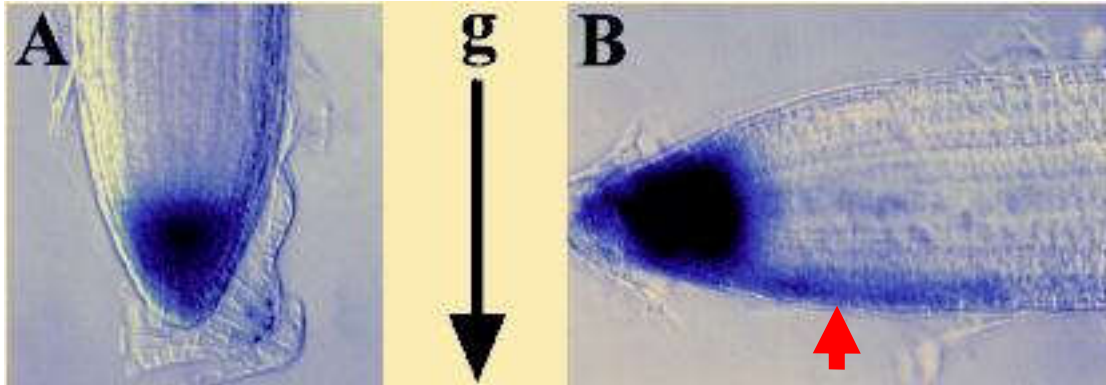
*DR5::GUS*, an auxin responsive reporter line

# Auxin controls shoot gravitropism

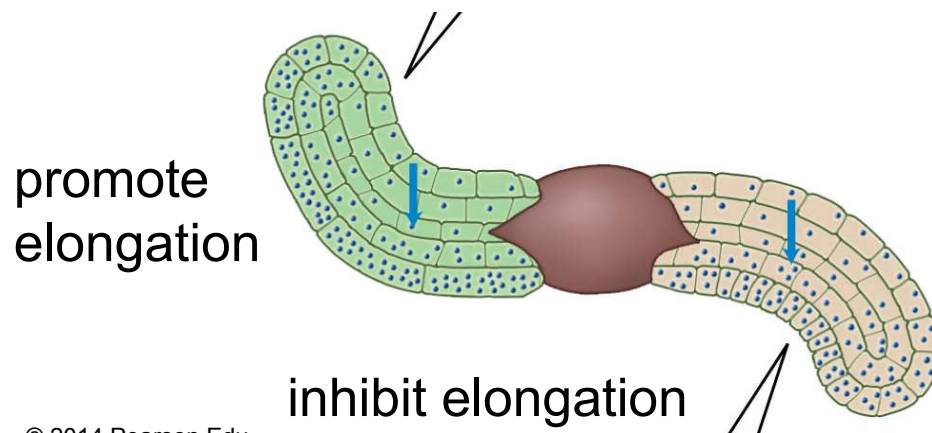


*DR5::GFP*

# Auxin controls root gravitropism



*DR5::GUS* expression in vertically oriented root and root 6 hours after turning horizontal.

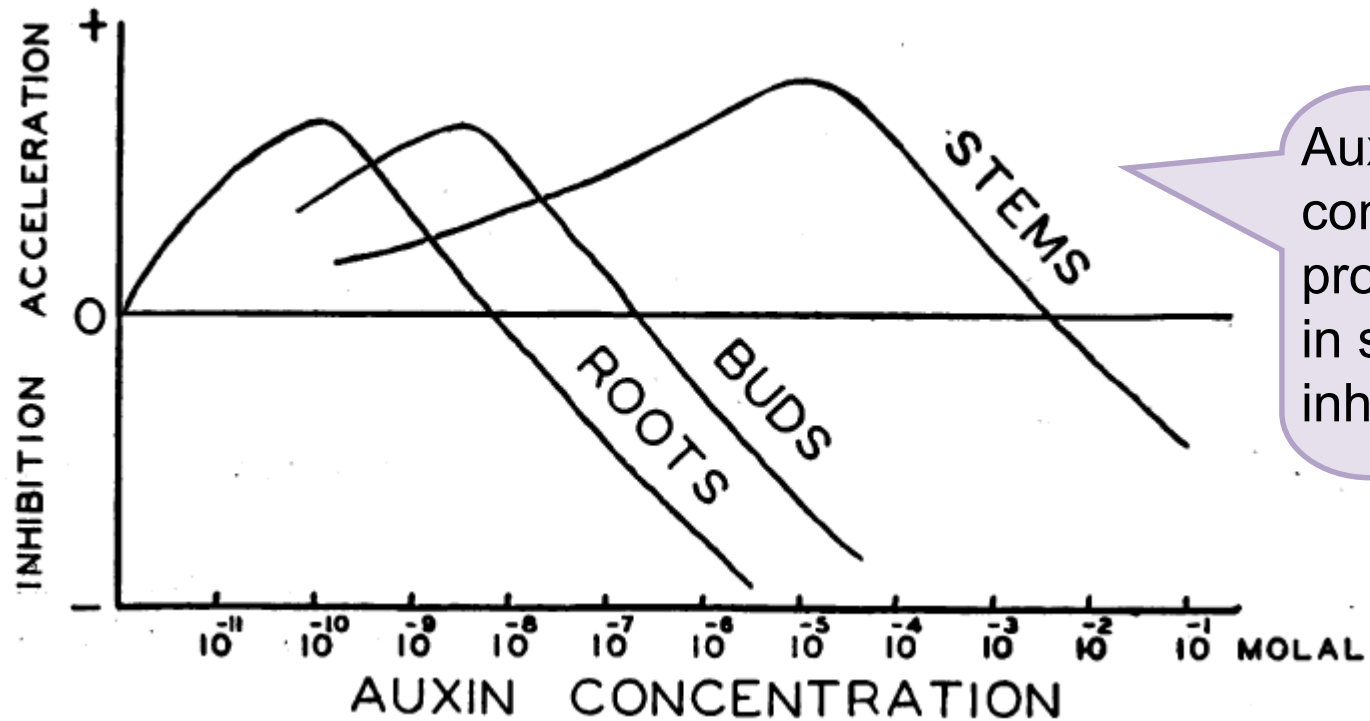


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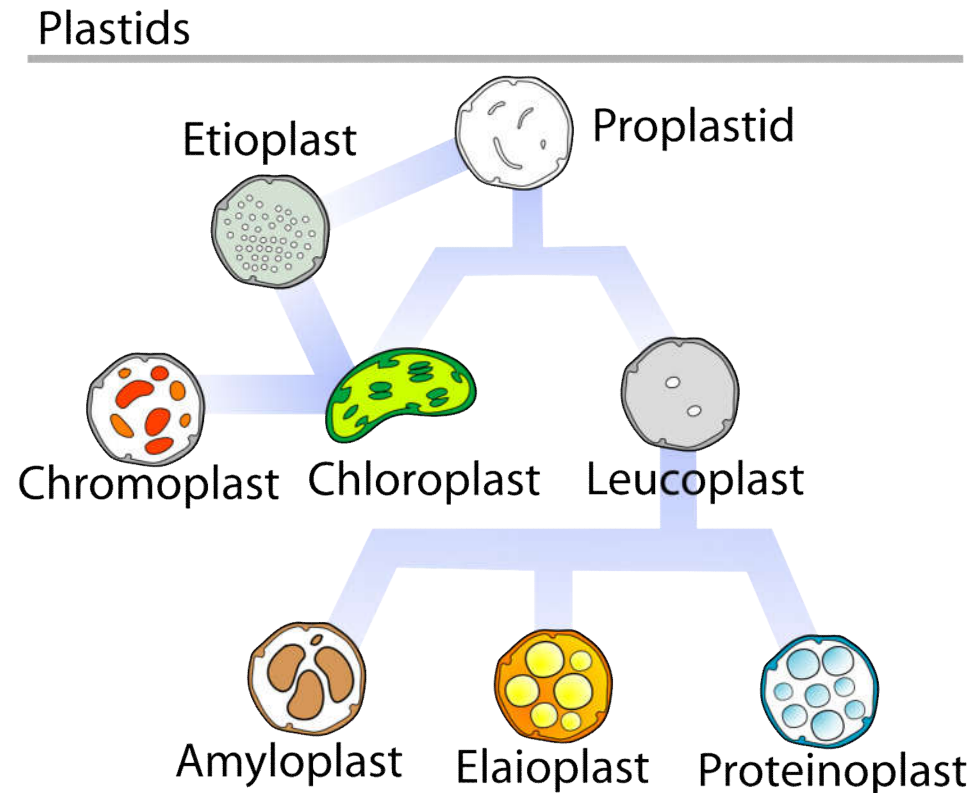
# Different tissues were recognized to have different sensitivities to auxin



Auxin concentrations that promote elongation in stems can be inhibitory in roots.

## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

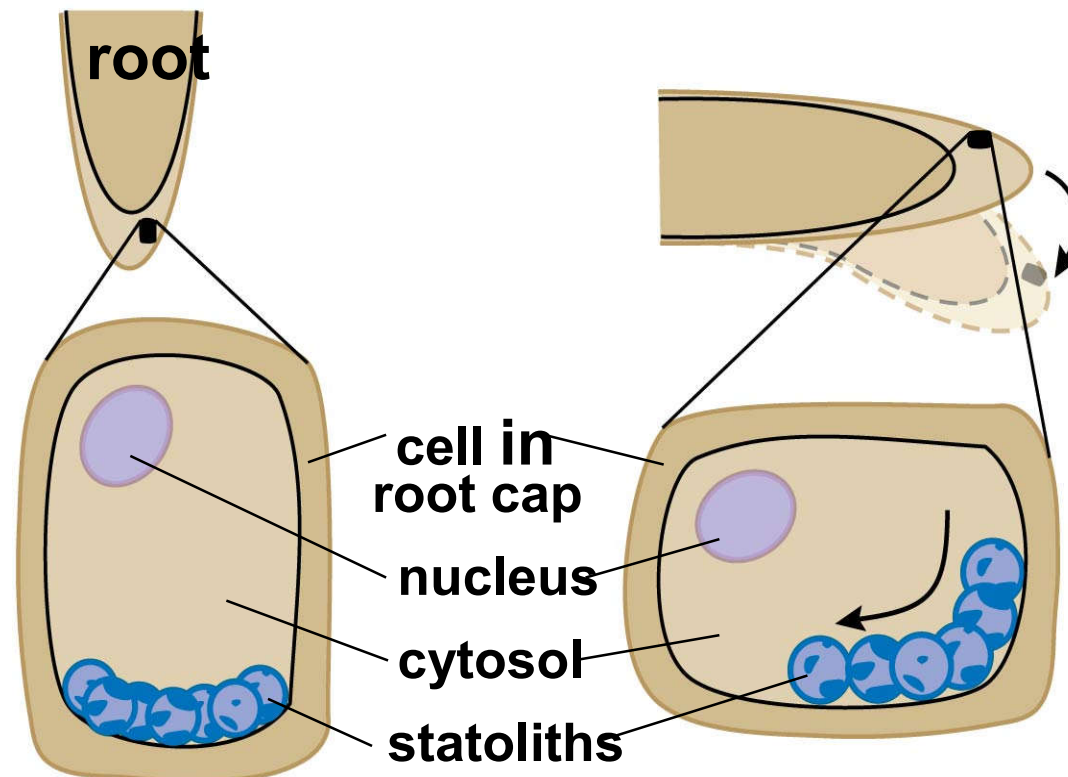
- How do plants sense gravity?
  - statoliths (平衡石): specialized **starch-filled plastids** (质体)

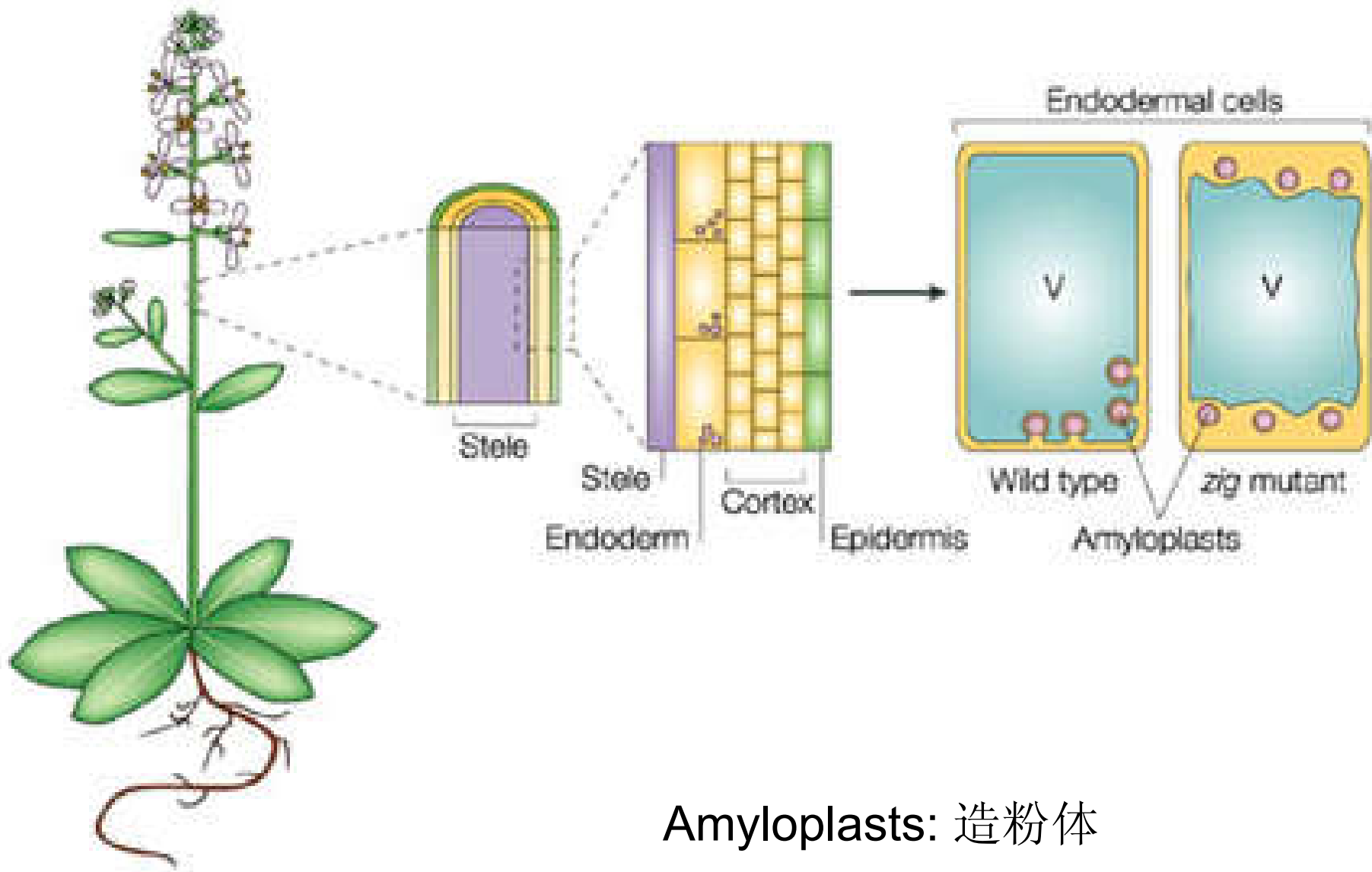


## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

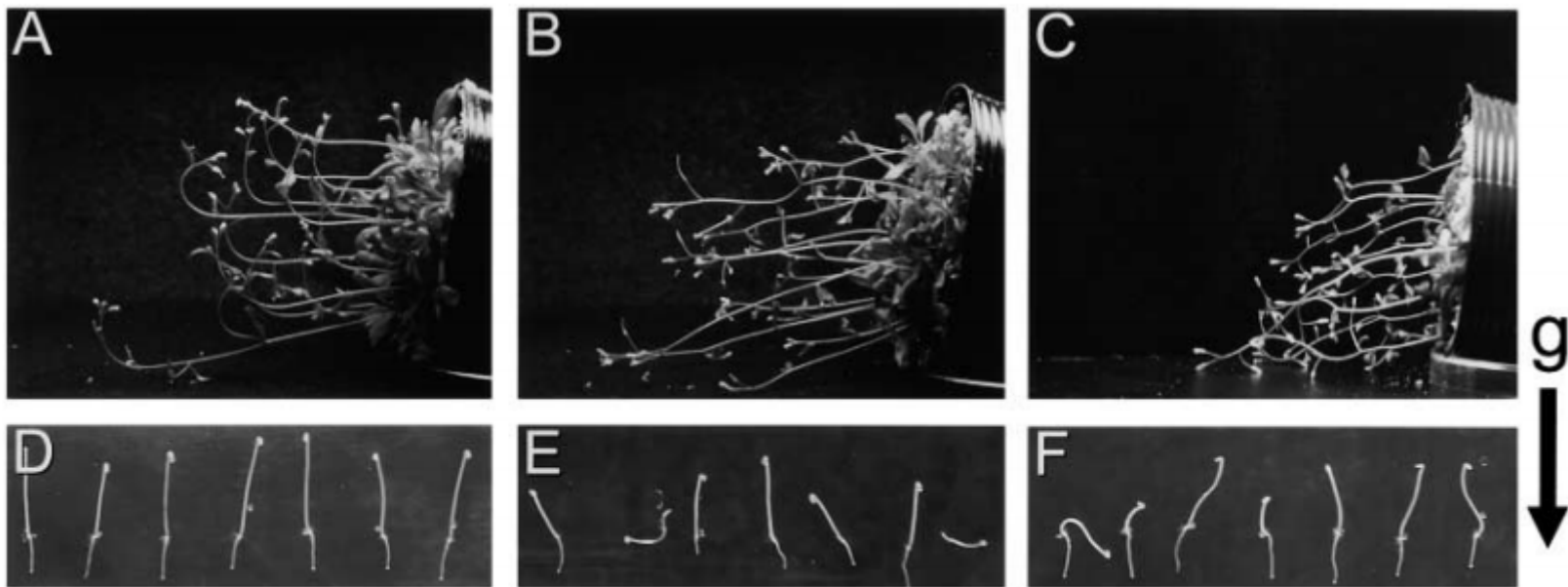
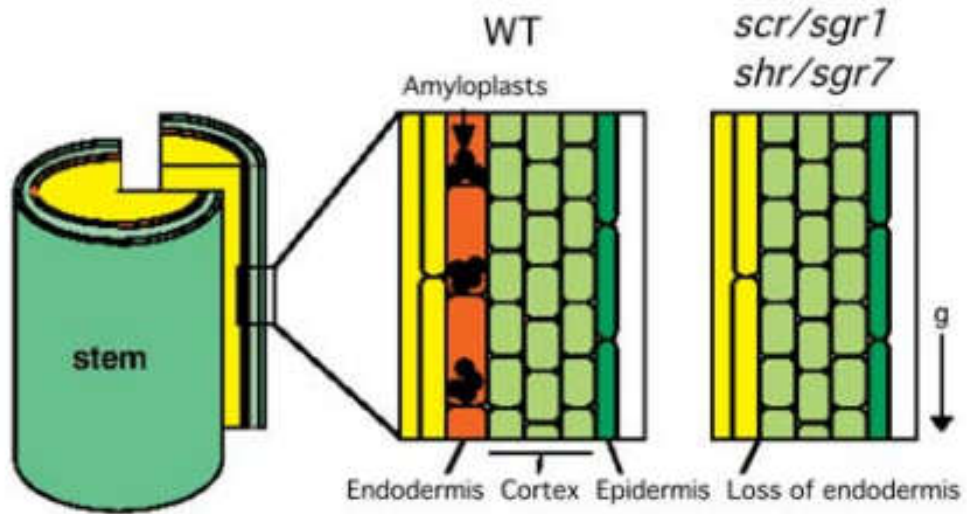
- How do plants sense gravity?
  - statoliths (平衡石): specialized **starch-filled plastids** (质体)
  - found in certain cells: endoderm of shoot and in **root cap** (根冠)

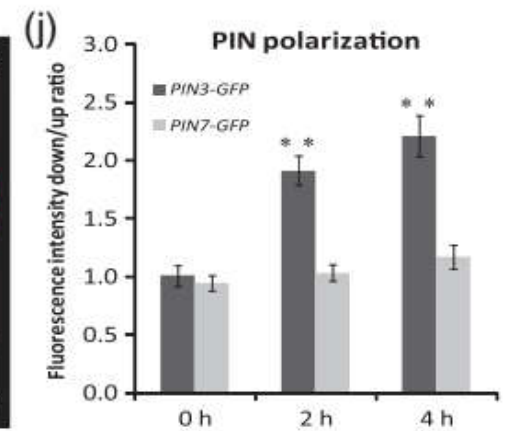
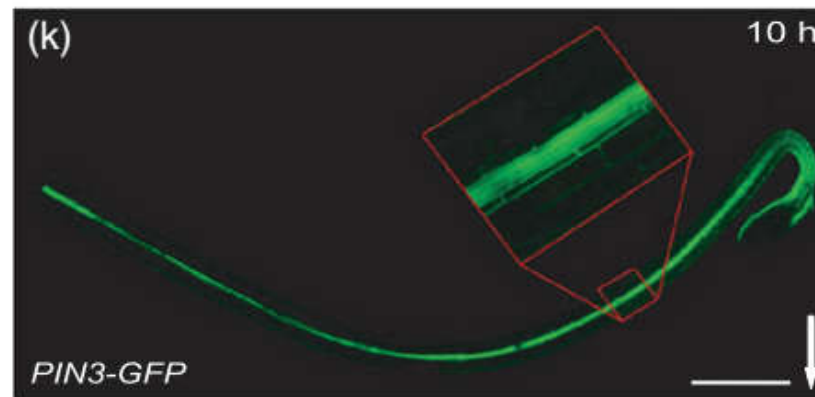
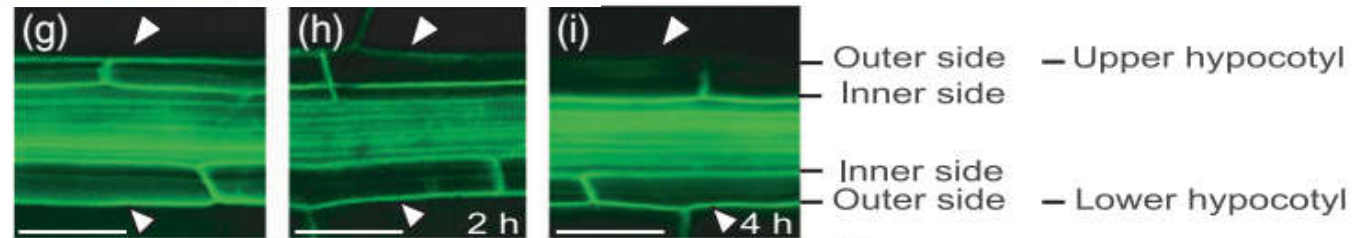
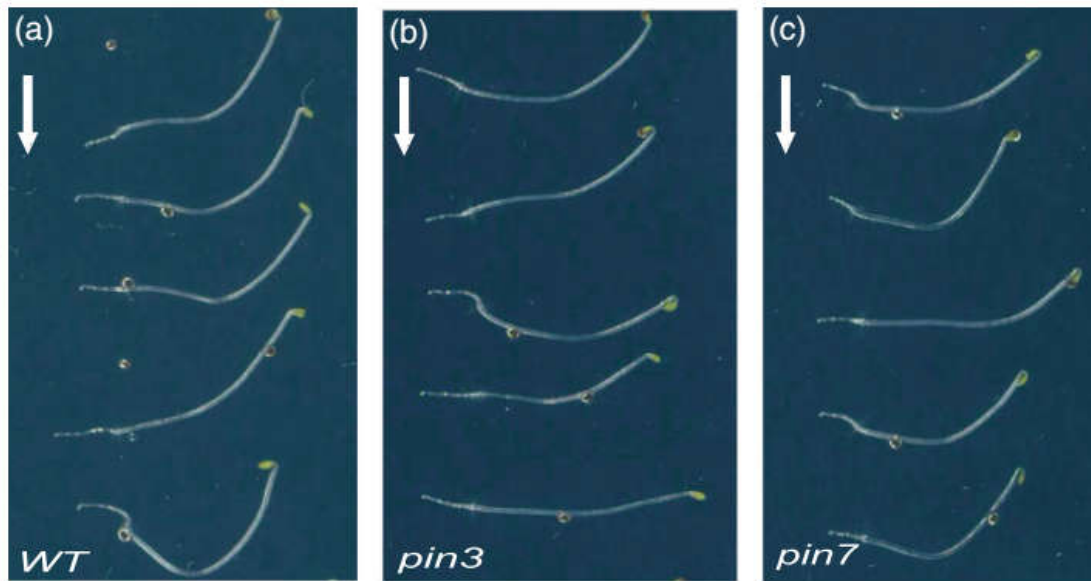
But, some mutant plants lacking statoliths still exhibit gravitropism



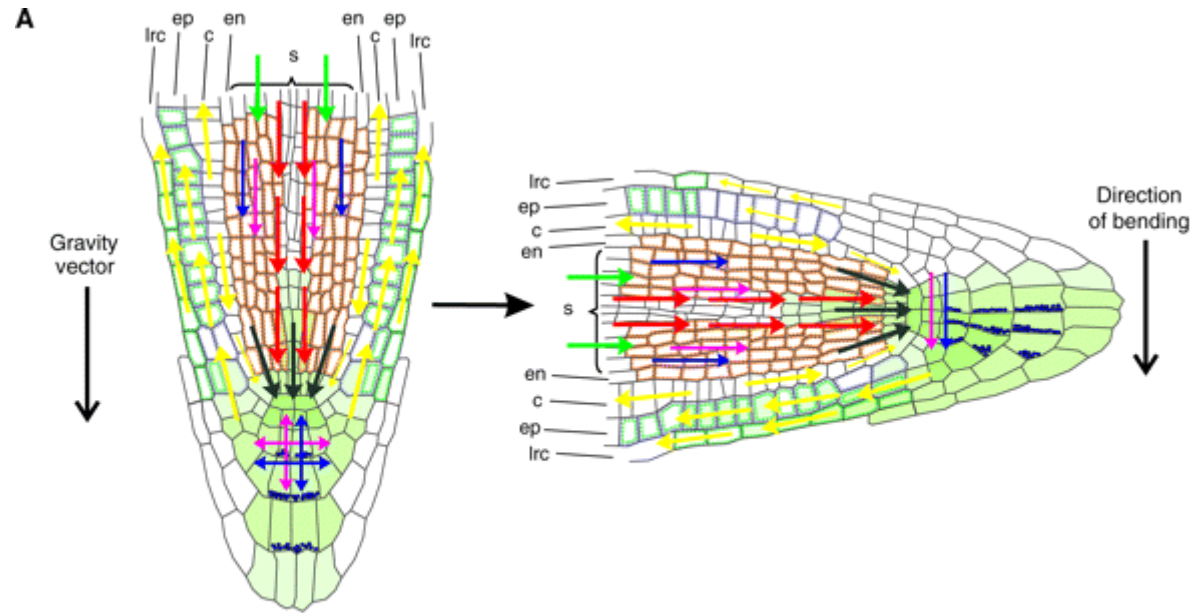


Amyloplasts: 造粉体

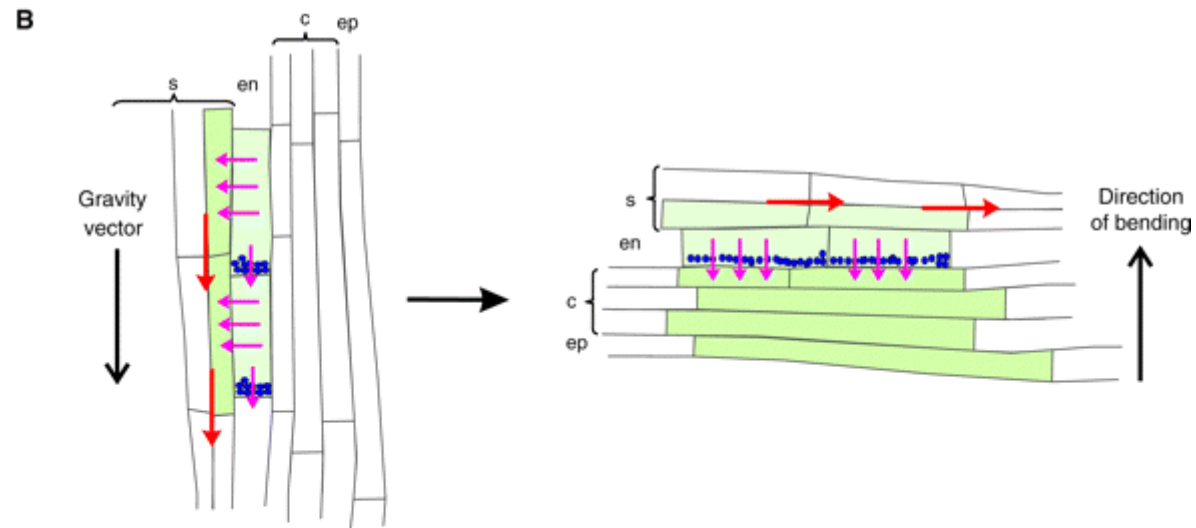




# Root



# Shoot

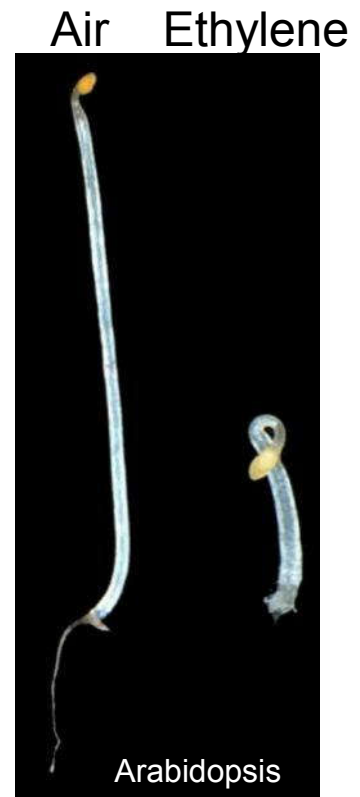
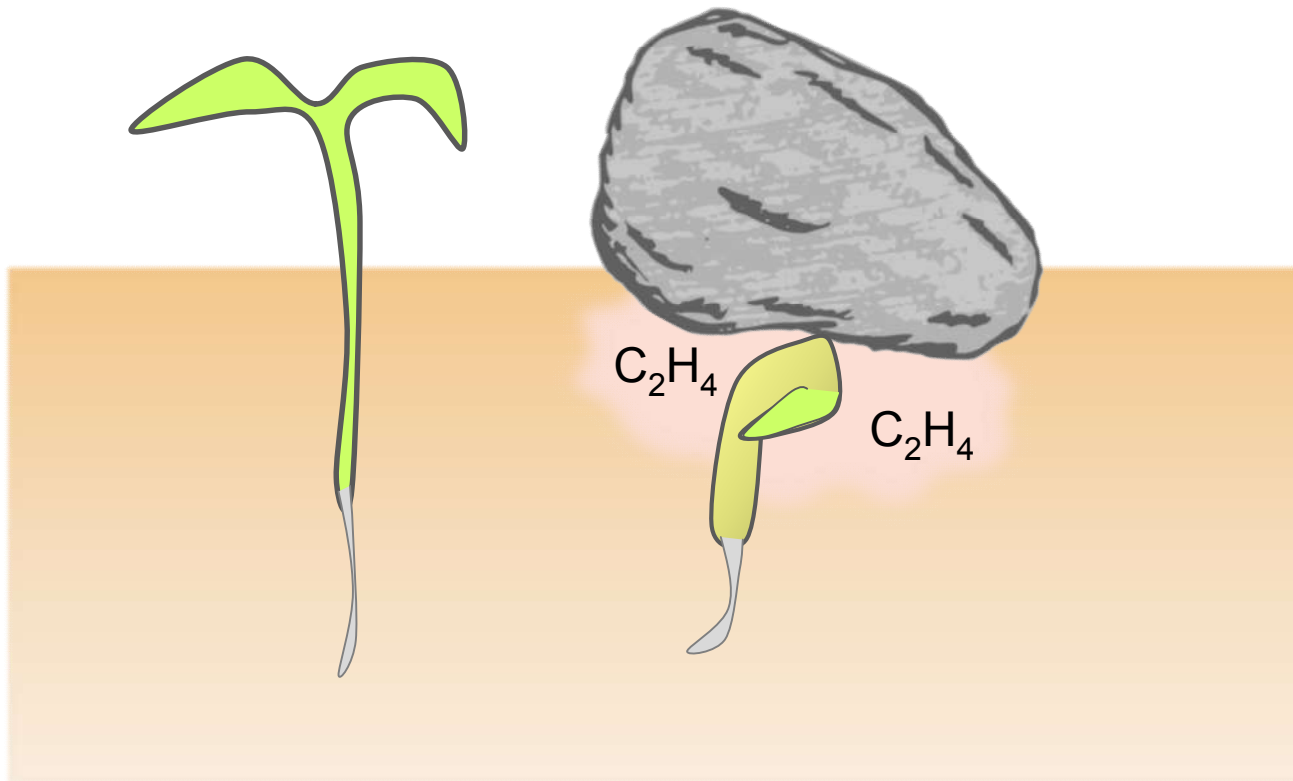


Key					
	PIN1		Auxin concentration gradient (low-high)	Lrc	Lateral root cap
	PIN2		ABCB4	ep	Epidermis
	PIN3		ABCB19	c	Cortex
	PIN4		Starch amyloplasts	en	Endodermis
	PIN7			s	Stele
	AUX1				

## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

Ethylene induces the **triple response**:

- reduced elongation,
- hypocotyl swelling,
- apical hook exaggeration.





# Gibberellins stimulate elongation and help determine the ultimate height of the plant



One of the most significant accomplishments of 20<sup>th</sup> century science was the development of semi-dwarf grain varieties which are deficient in GA synthesis or response.

Distinguished plant breeder and Nobel Laureate  
[Norman Borlaug](#) 1914-2009

Photos courtesy of S. Harrison, [LSU Ag center](#) and [The World Food Prize](#).



Some plants are treated with *GA*- synthesis inhibitors to maintain a shorter stature and prevent lodging ( 倒伏, tipping over).

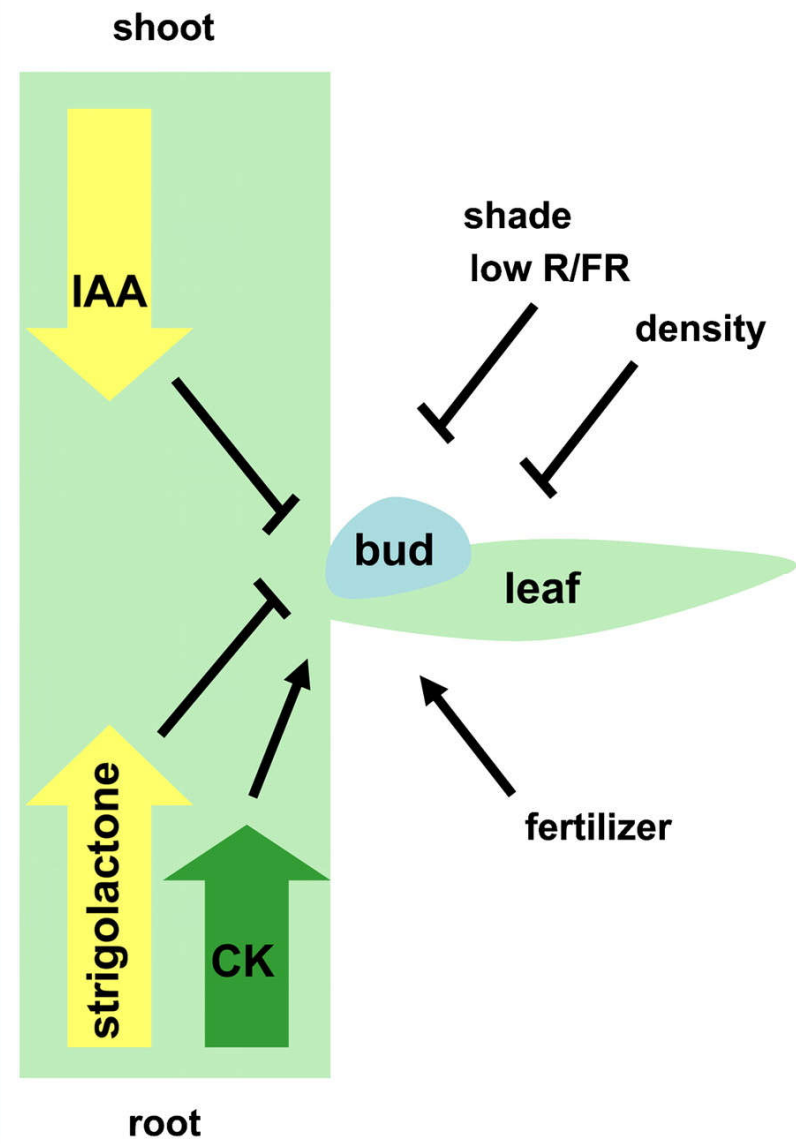
## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

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- Auxin and cytokinin control stem and root branching
  - The size of the root and shoot systems of plants must be balanced
  - Branching in stems is inhibited by auxin and stimulated by cytokinin
    - apical dominance

Auxin produced in the shoot apical meristem travels down the stem and inhibits lateral buds from developing into branches

Figure 45-6 Apical dominance

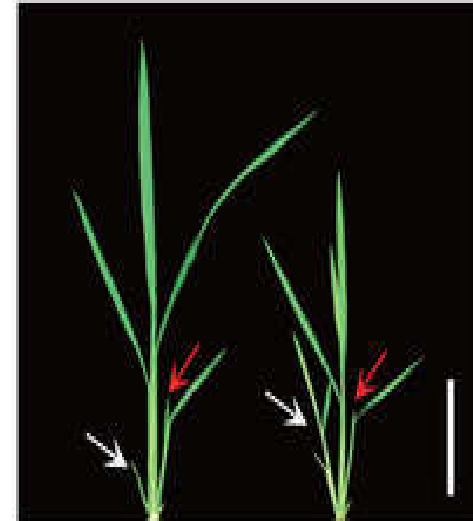




**Auxin mutant  
(signaling)**



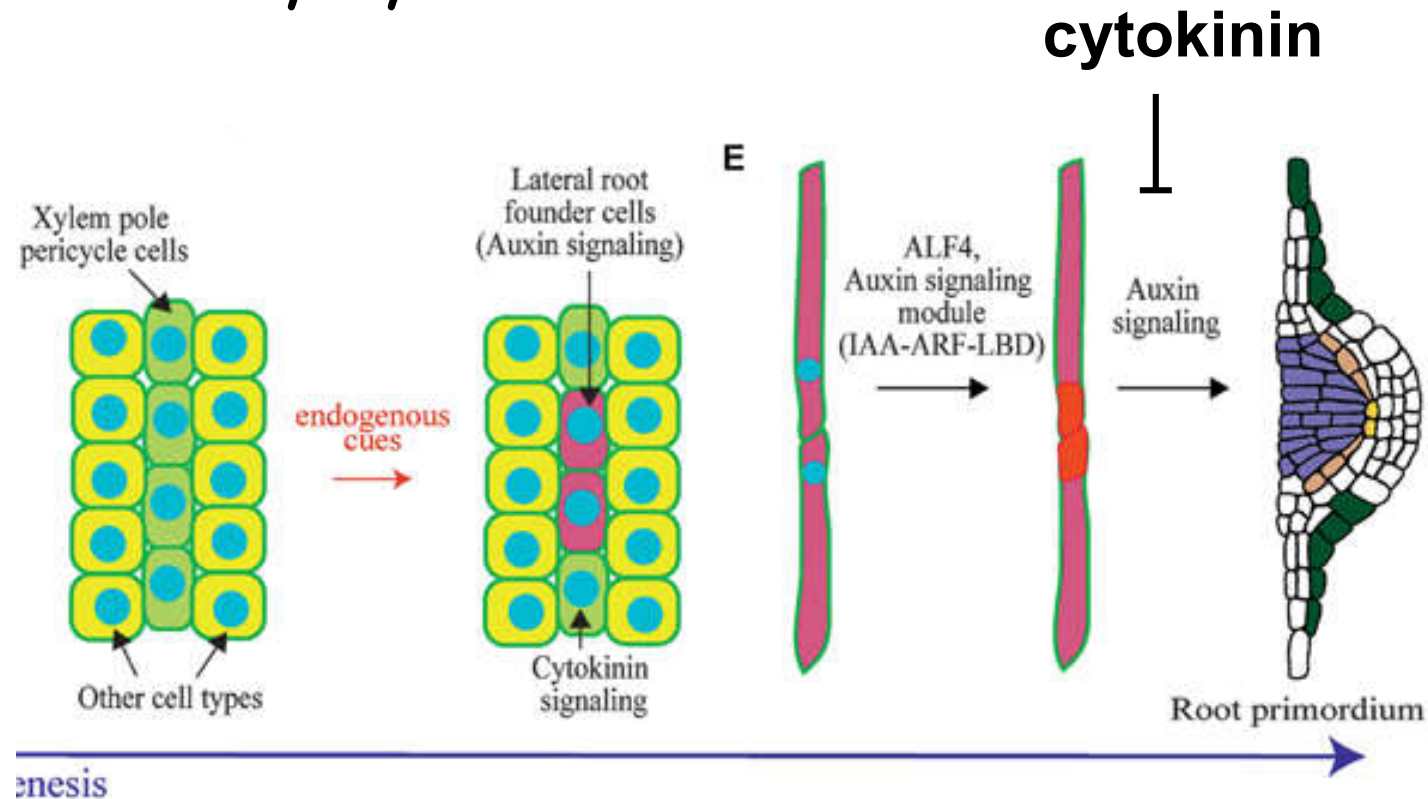
**BR mutant  
(signaling)**



**Stringolactone mutant  
(signaling)**

## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

- **Branching in roots is stimulated by auxin and inhibited by cytokinin**

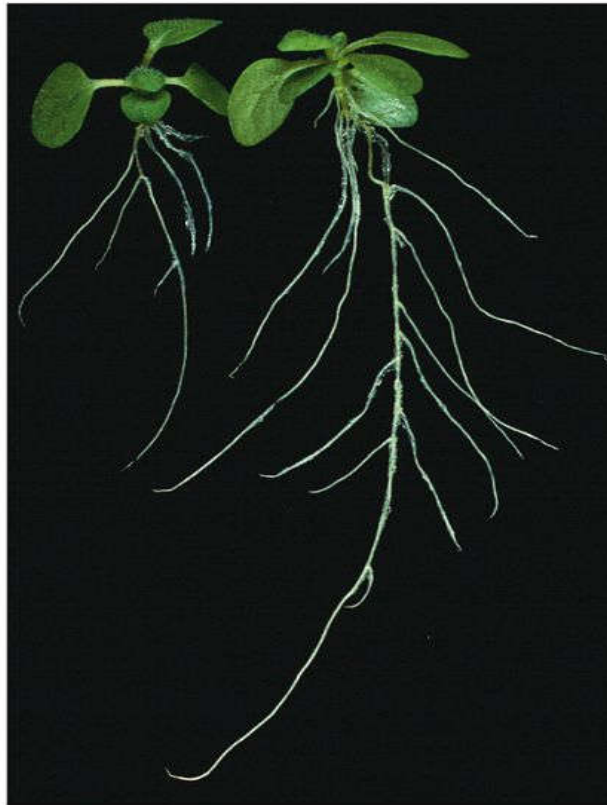


# 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

Figure 21.13 Cytokinin suppresses the growth of roots

The cytokinin-deficient  
AtCKX1 tobacco-right

WT- left



*PLANT PHYSIOLOGY*, 5e, Figure 21.13

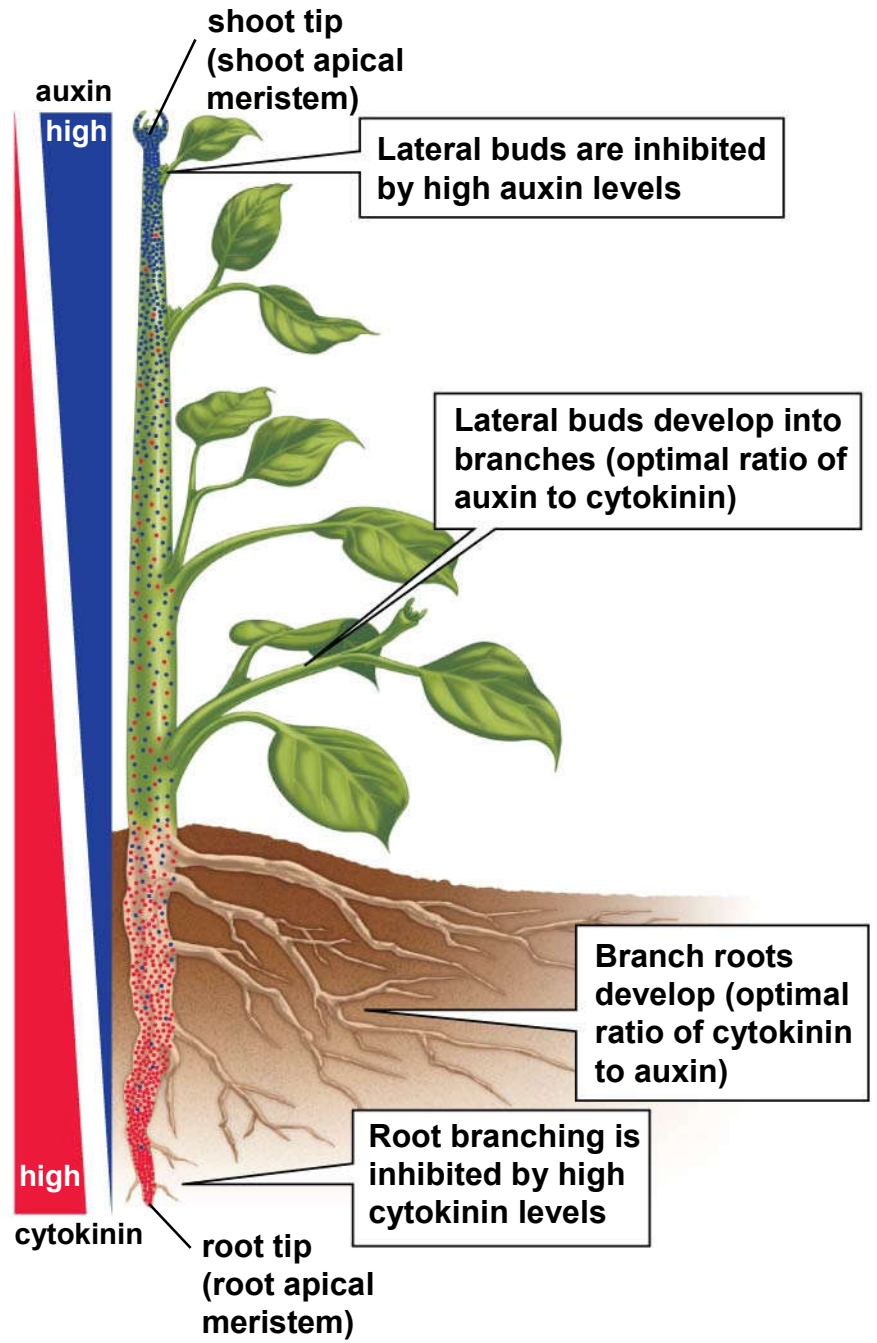
**CK deficient**



© 2010 Sinauer

**Auxin mutant  
(transport)**

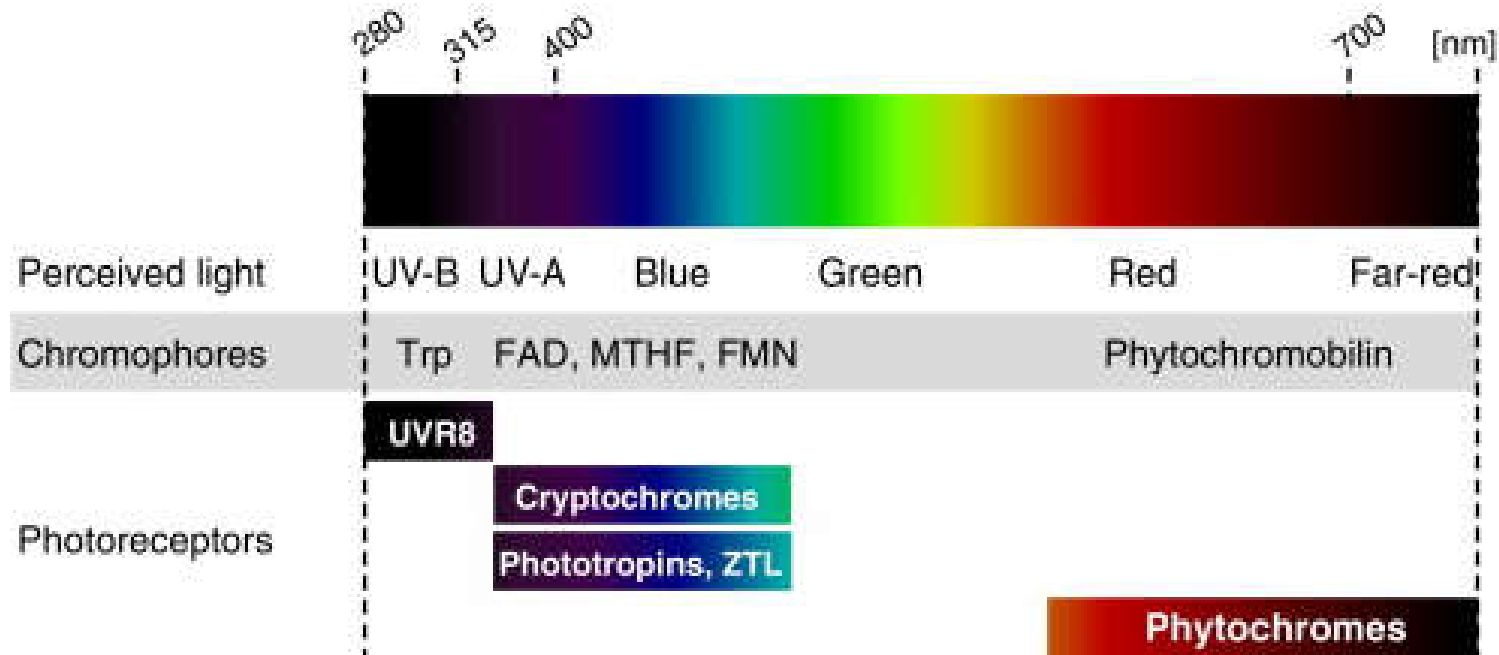
Figure 45-7 The role of auxin and cytokinin in lateral bud sprouting





# 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

## Photoreceptors (光受体)



*TRENDS in Plant Science*

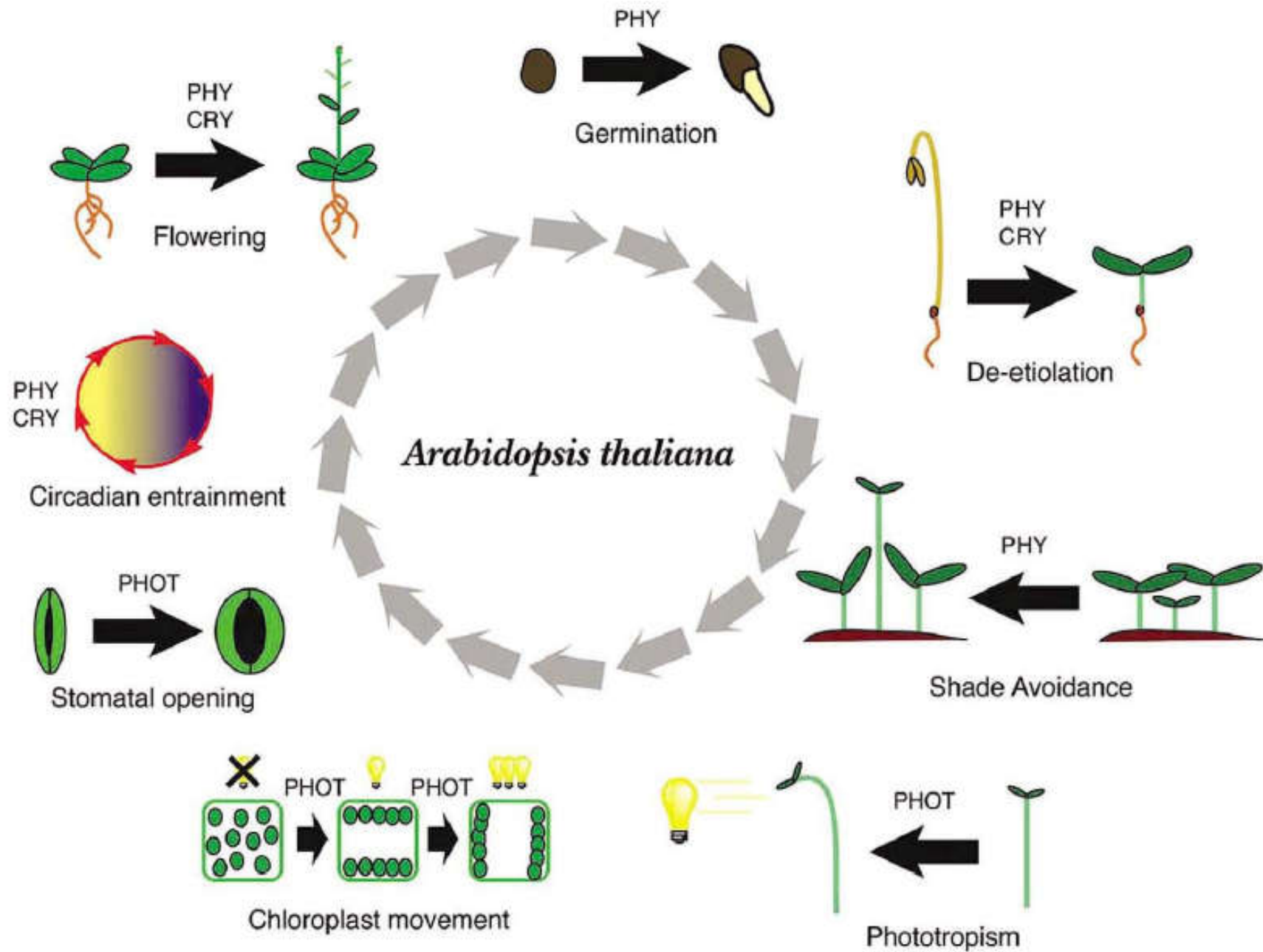
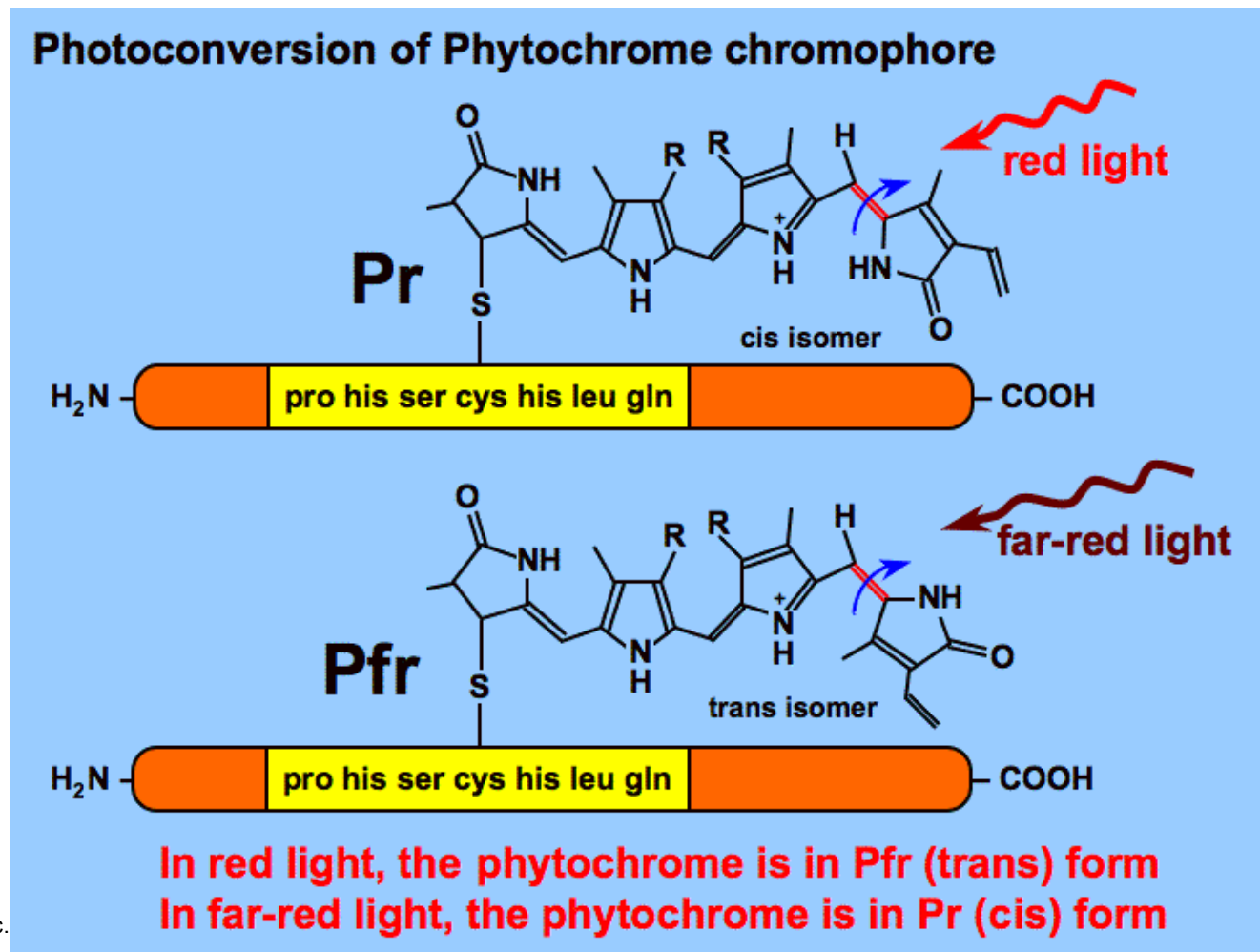


Fig. 2. Light-regulated development in the model plant species *Arabidopsis thaliana*. Light affects the development of *Arabidopsis* throughout its life cycle. Multiple aspects of development are regulated the photoreceptors phytochromes (PHY), cryptochromes (CRY), or phototropins (PHOT) acting alone or in combination with each other.

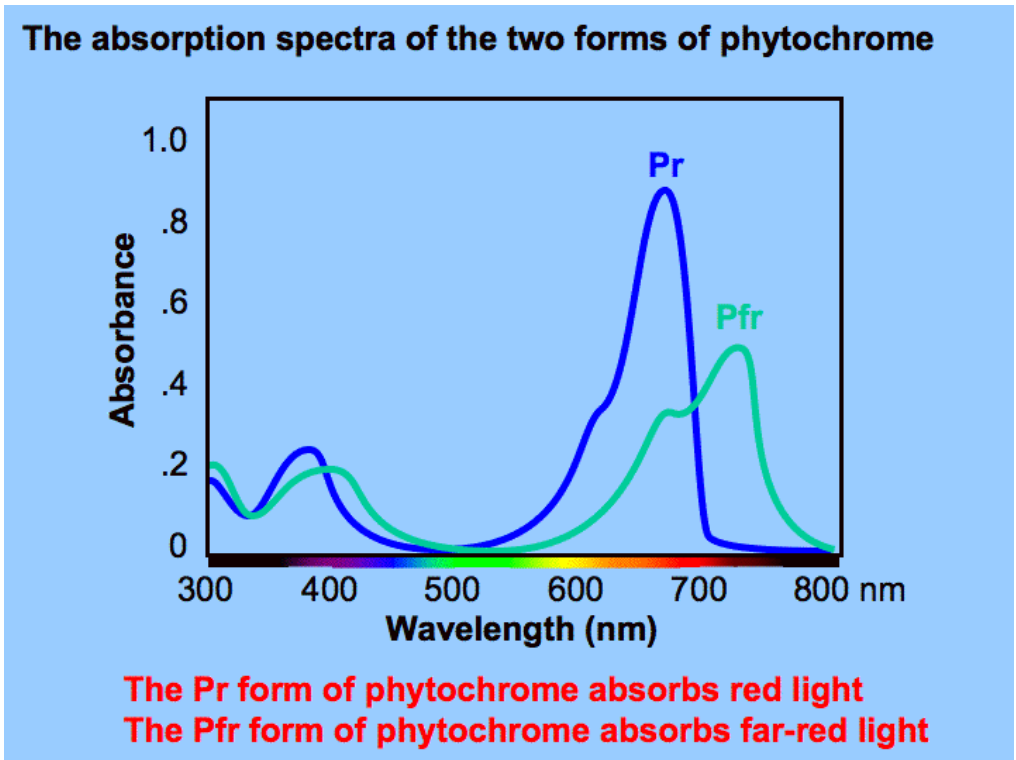
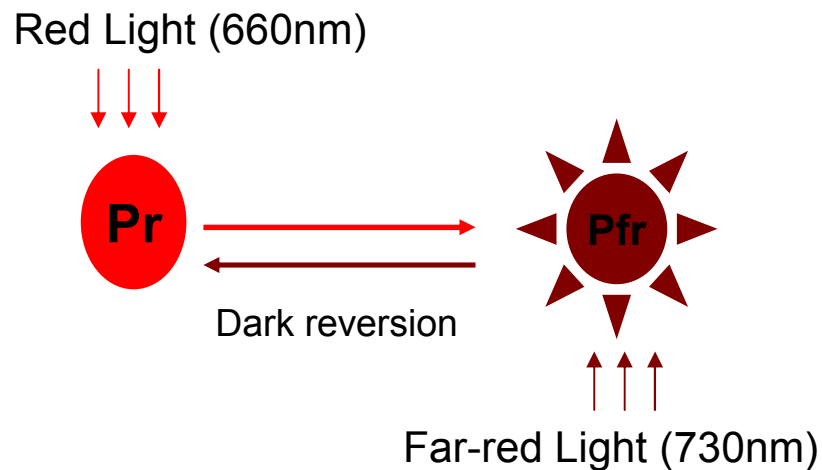
## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

- phytochromes (光敏色素)



## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

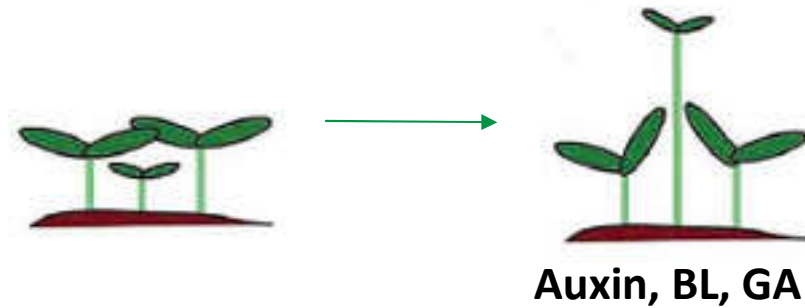
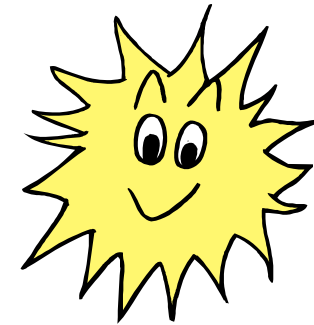
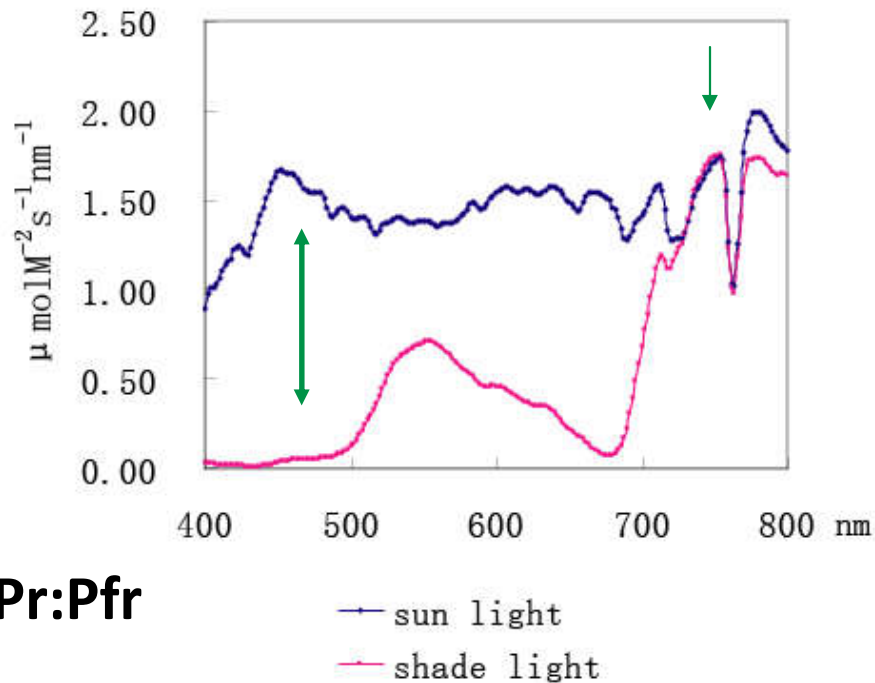
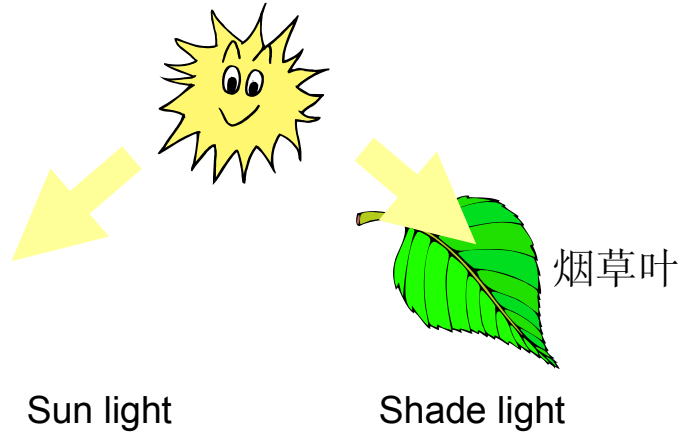
- phytochromes (光敏色素)
- $P_r$  and  $P_{fr}$  form of phytochrome



**TABLE 45-2 Light and Phytochrome Activity**

<b>Light</b>	<b>Resulting Phytochrome</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Red	$P_{fr}$	Active
Far-red	$P_r$	Inactive
White (sunlight)	$P_r + P_{fr}$	Active
Darkness	$P_r$	Inactive

# 植物的避荫反应



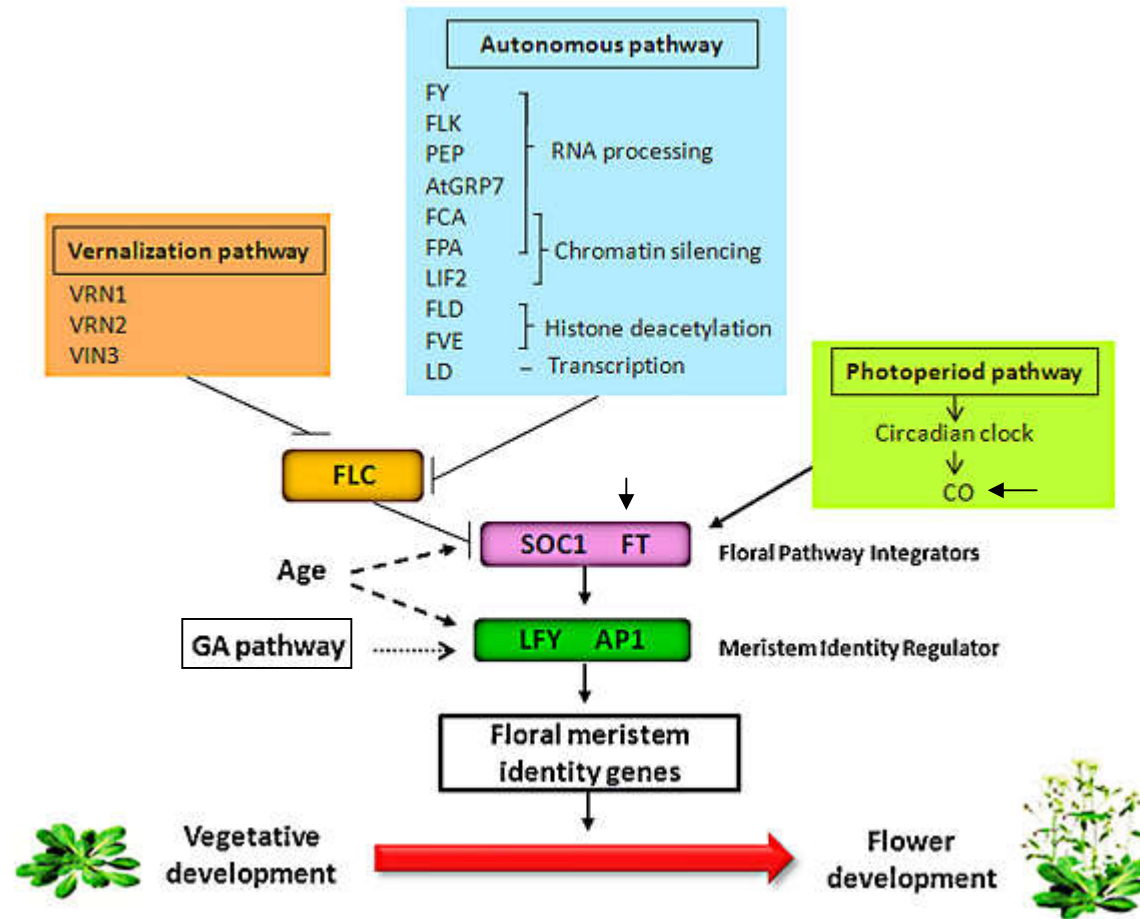
避荫反应是当避荫植物处于其它植物的遮荫下或当检测到周围其它植物的存在时所诱导的一系列反应，其目的是通过快速长高，获得更充足的阳光和更有利的生存条件。

## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

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- Plants sense and respond to light and darkness (circadian clock, 昼夜节律钟, 生物钟)
  - controls flowering time and seed production
  - day-neutral plants (日中性植物, ), flower independently of day length under favorable conditions
  - Long-day plants (长日照植物)
  - Short-day plants (短日照植物)

# Flowering time control in Arabidopsis



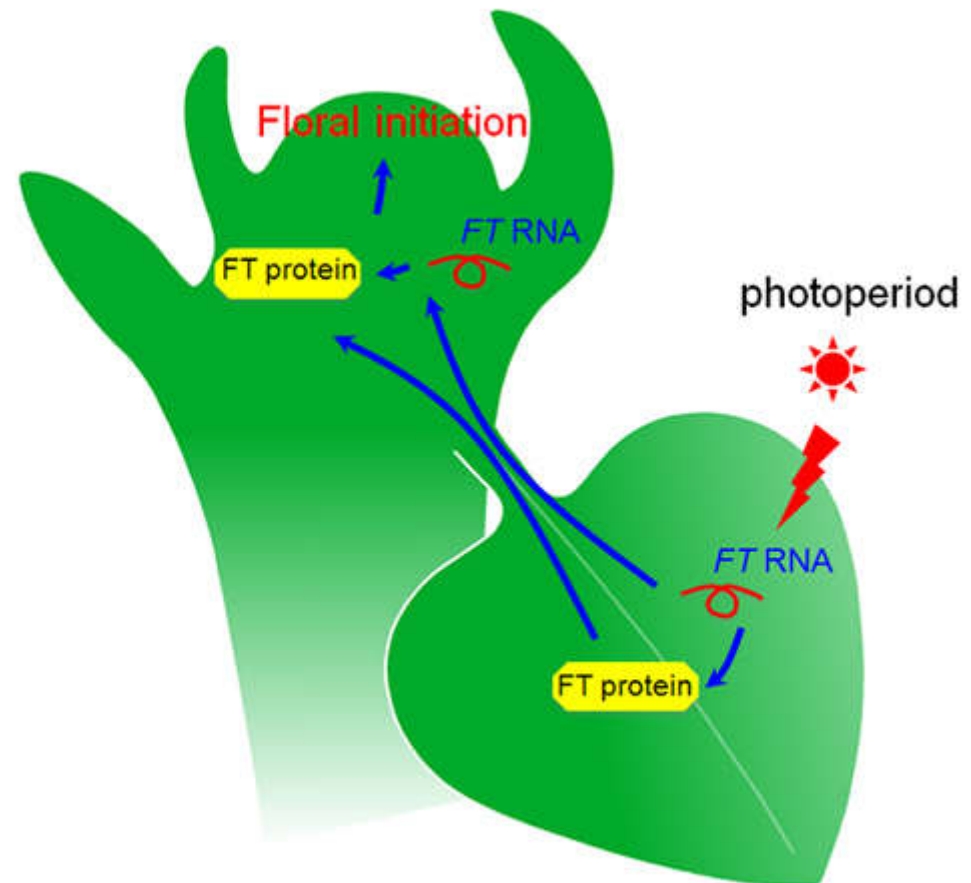
2014 Plant Science Yeap et. al.



## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

- Florigen stimulates flowering in response to light cues

- florigen: a hypothetical flowering-promoting substance (1930)
  - The florigen molecule was not identified until 2007



# 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

## Circadian clock 生物钟

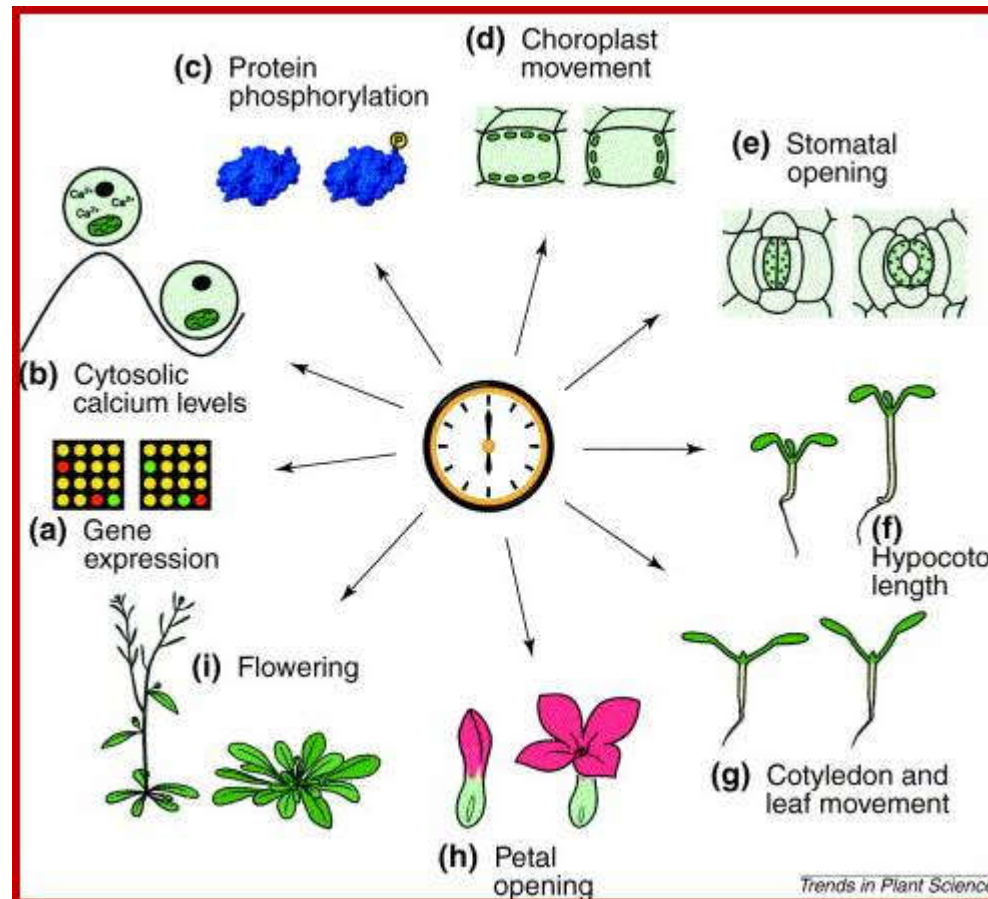
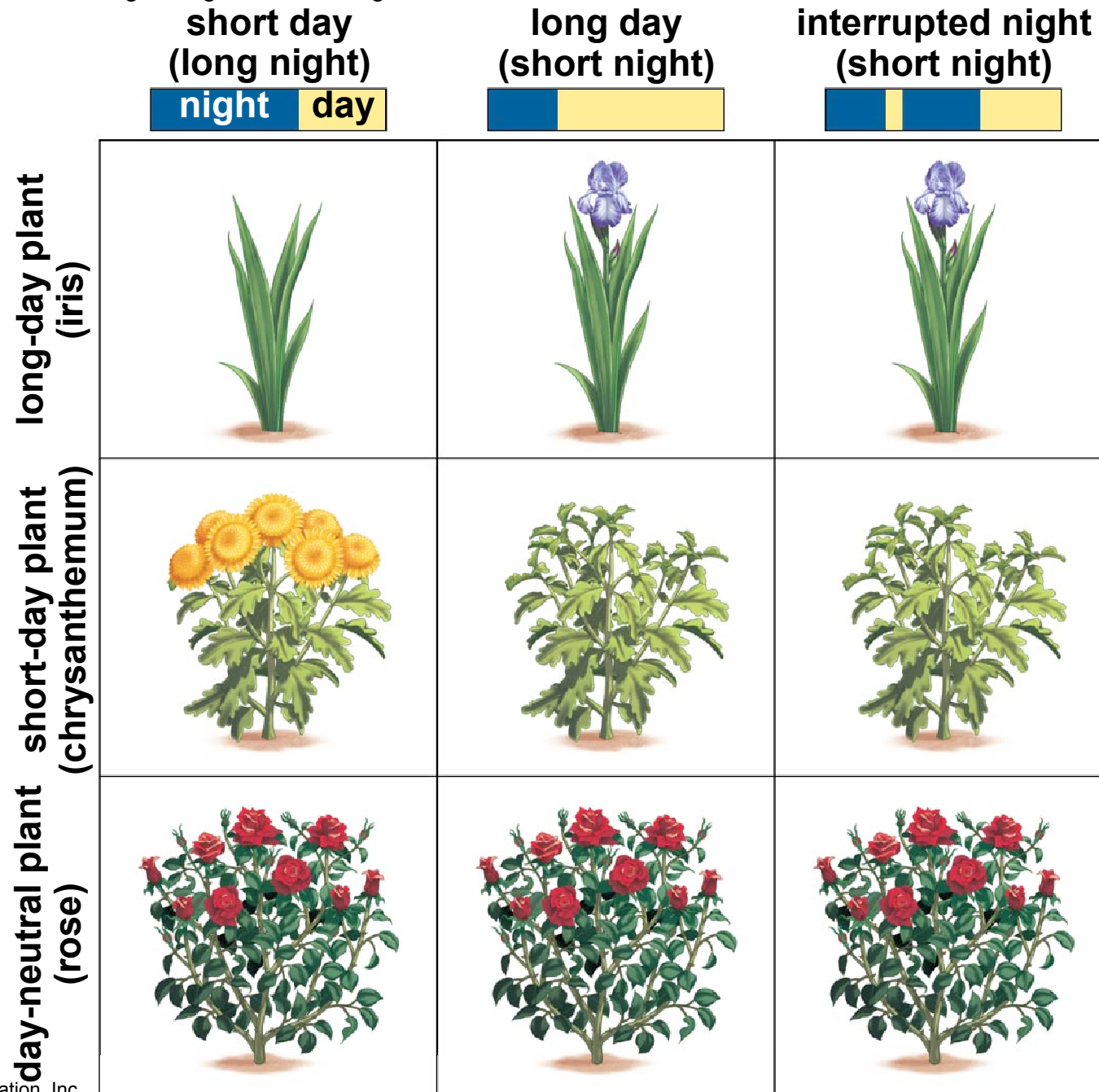


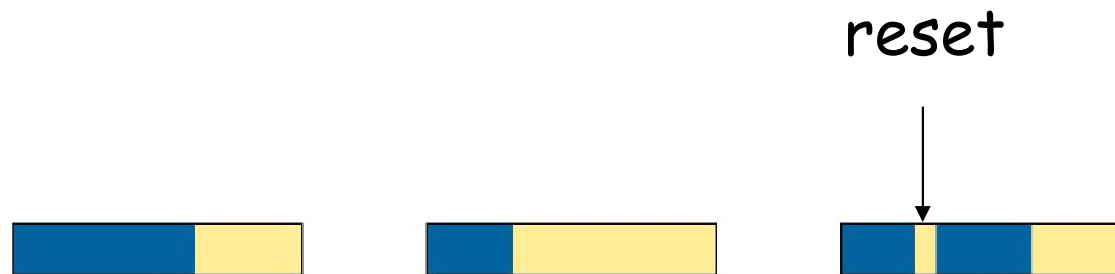
Figure 45-8 The effects of night length on flowering



## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

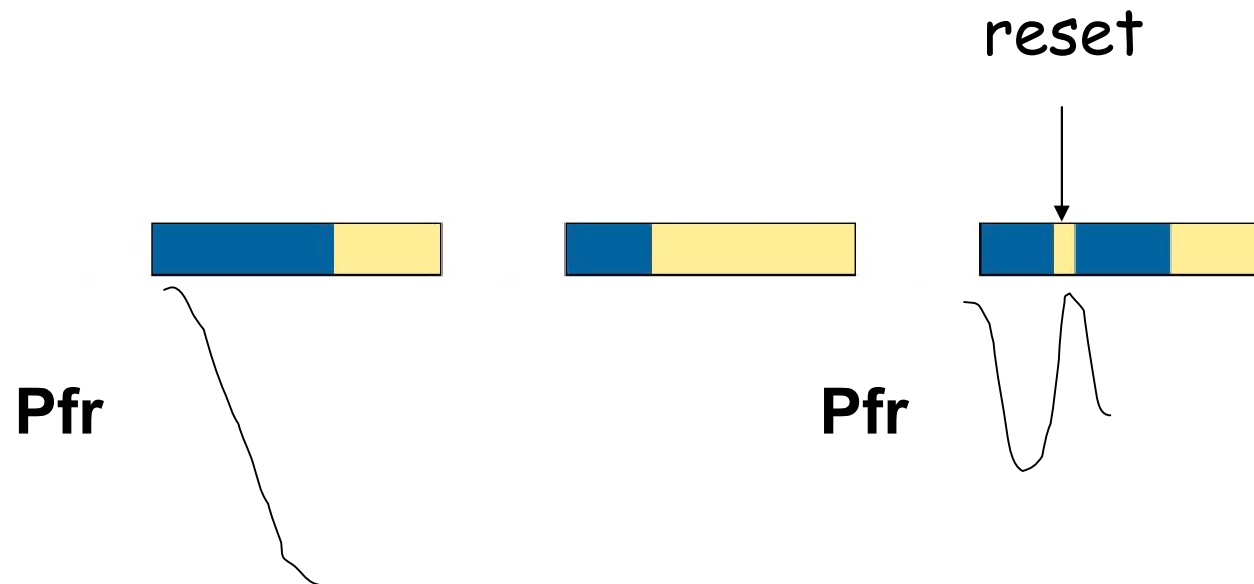
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- Plants measure the duration of darkness using an internal **biological clock** that relies on complex biochemical reactions
- If a plant in darkness is exposed to light of a certain wavelength, its **phytochrome** (光敏色素) molecules will "reset" the clock



## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

- Plants measure the duration of darkness using an internal **biological clock** that relies on complex biochemical reactions
- If a plant in darkness is exposed to light of a certain wavelength, its **phytochrome** (光敏色素) molecules will "reset" the clock



# 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

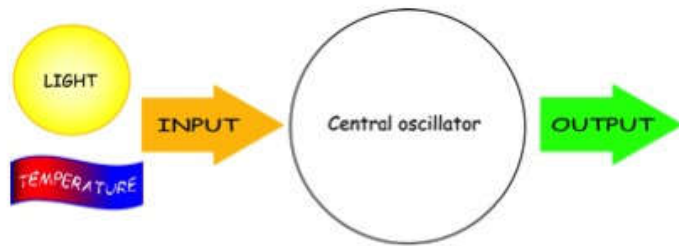
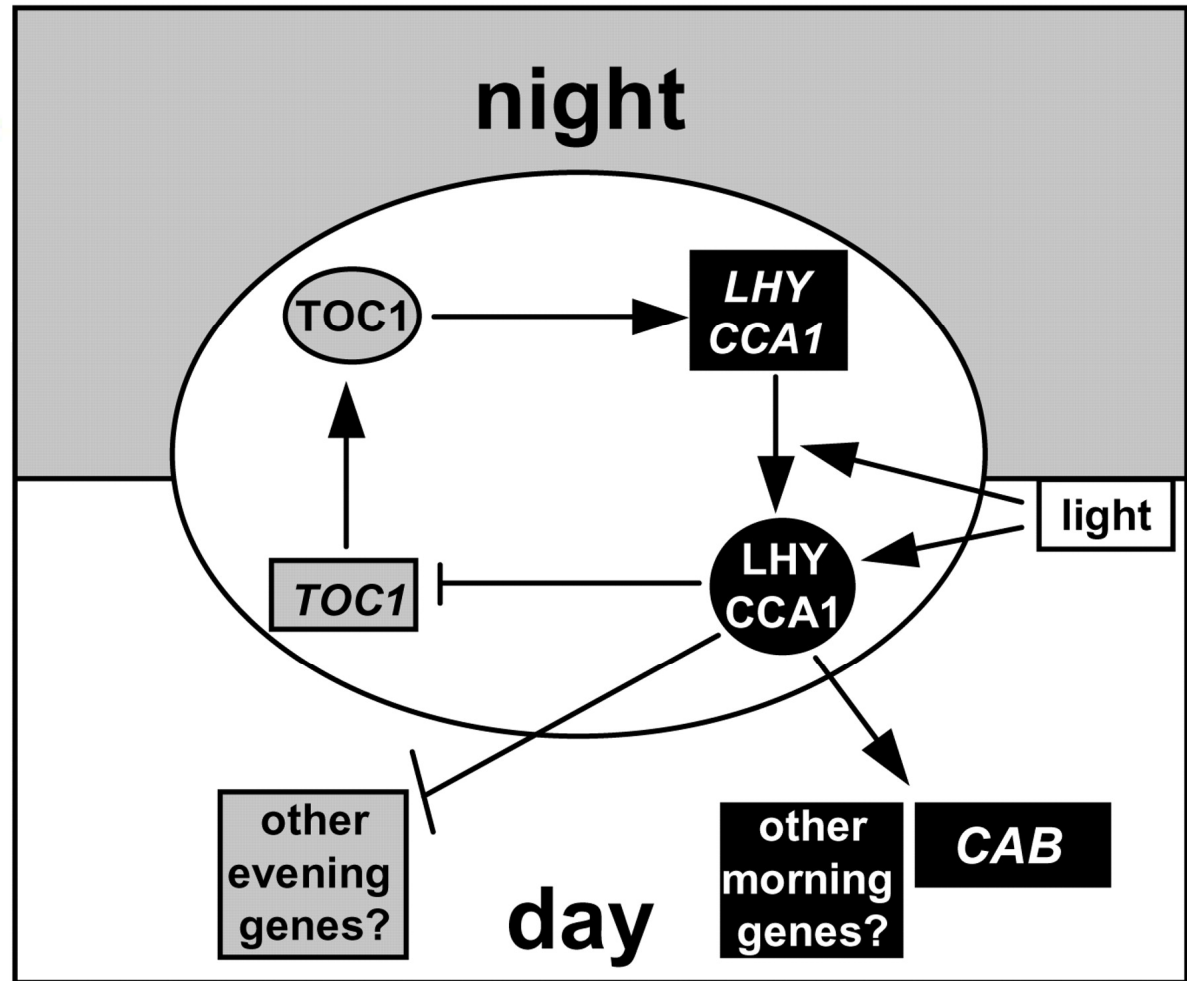
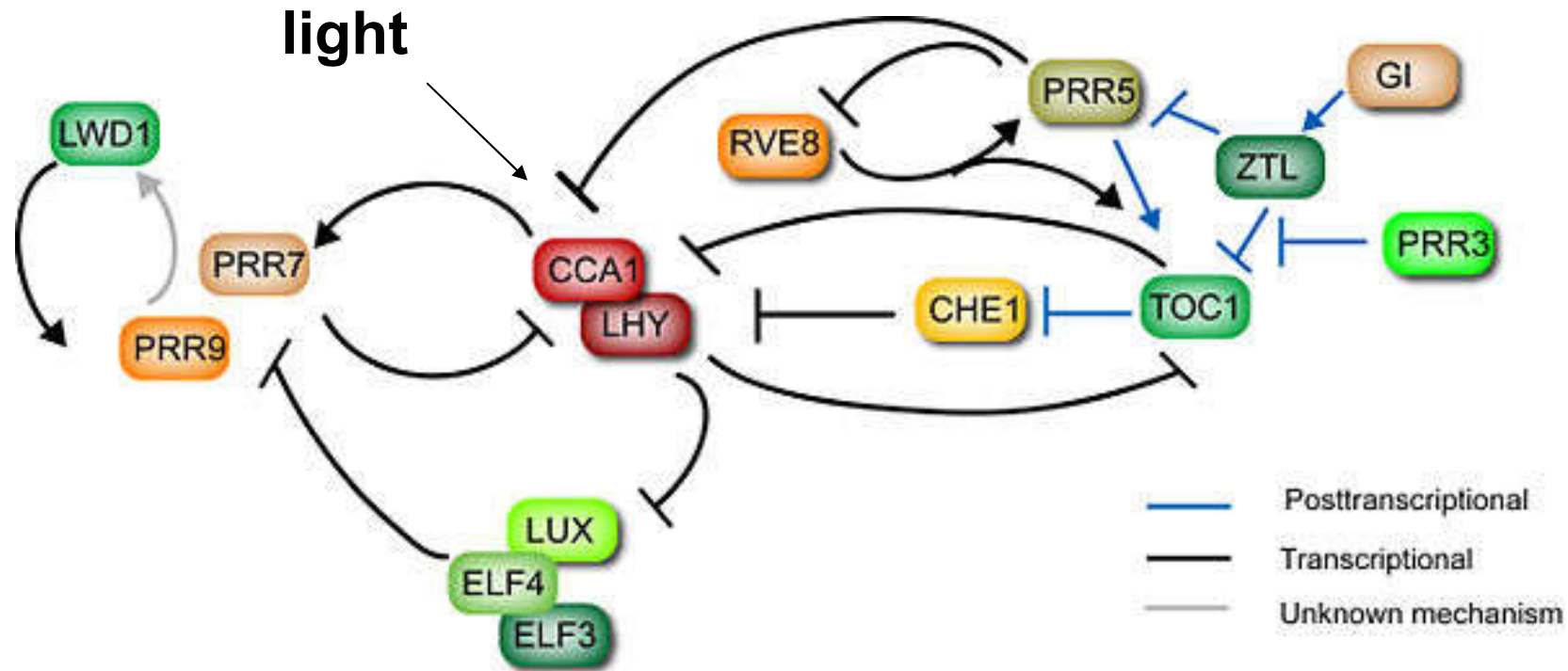


Figure1. Abstract view of a circadian system



# 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

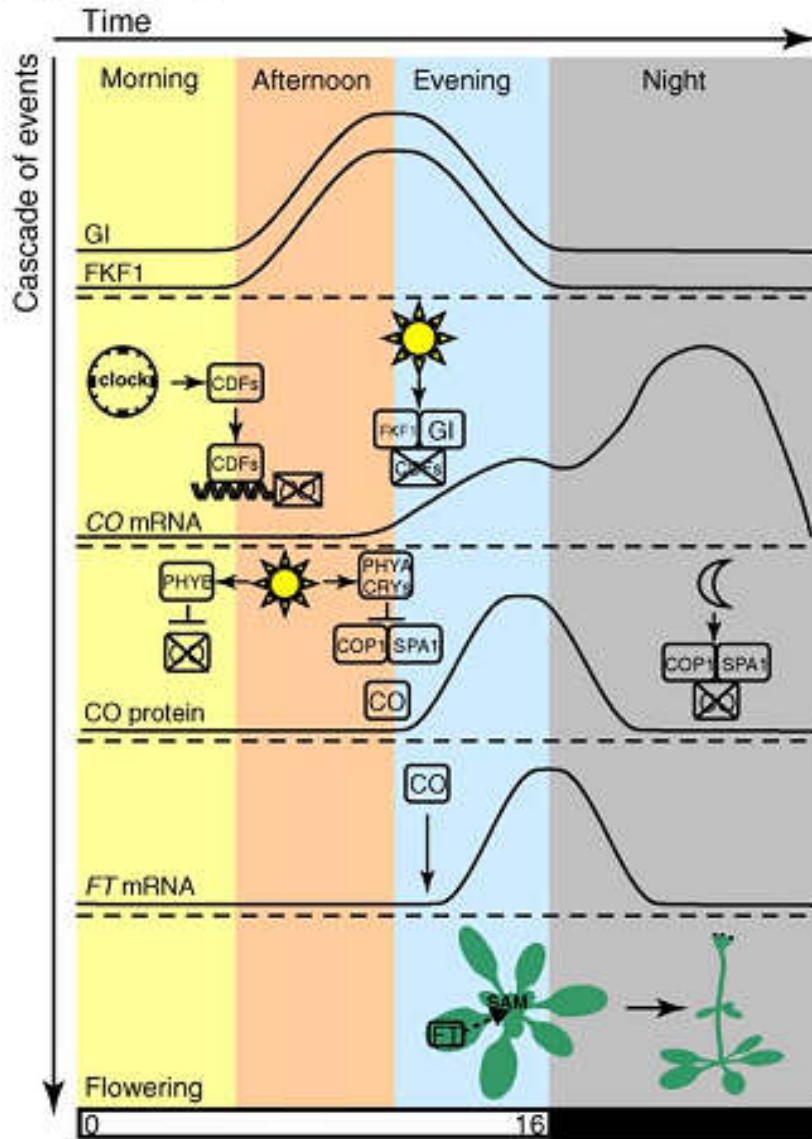
## Oscillator 振荡器



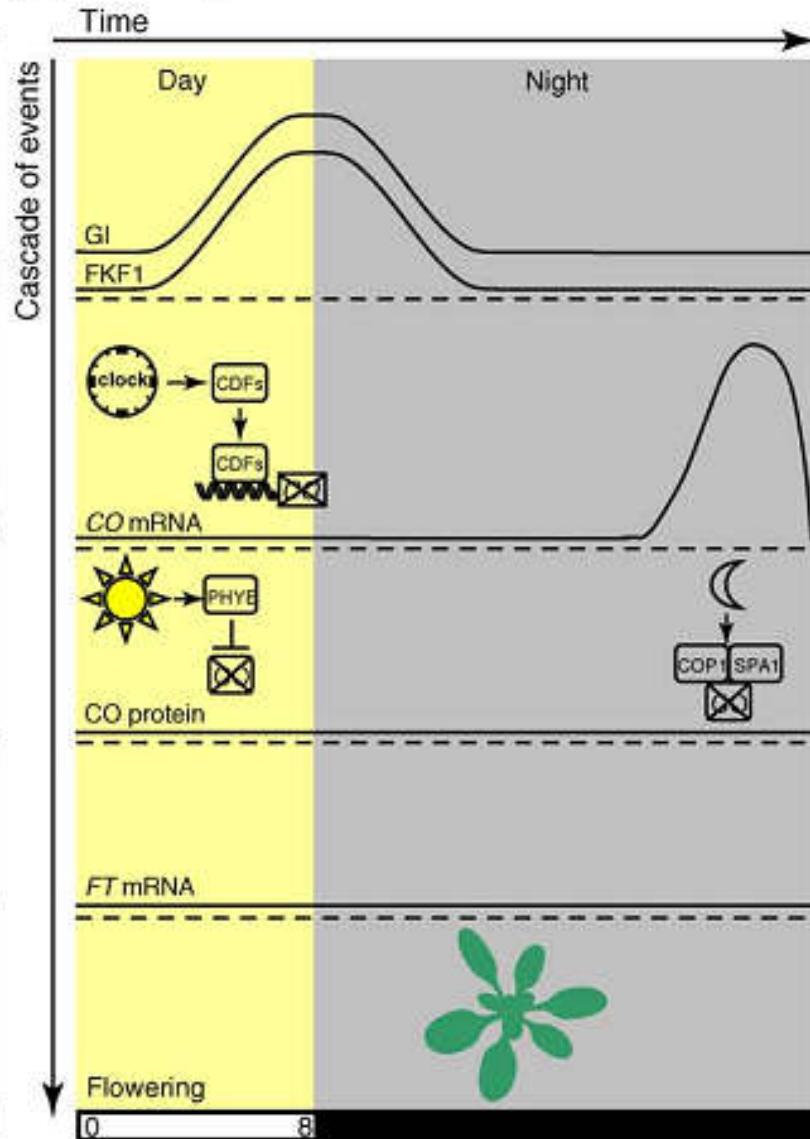
Current status of the Arabidopsis circadian clock (2014)

[http://www.openwetware.org/wiki/Farre\\_Lab:Research](http://www.openwetware.org/wiki/Farre_Lab:Research)

(a) Long Days

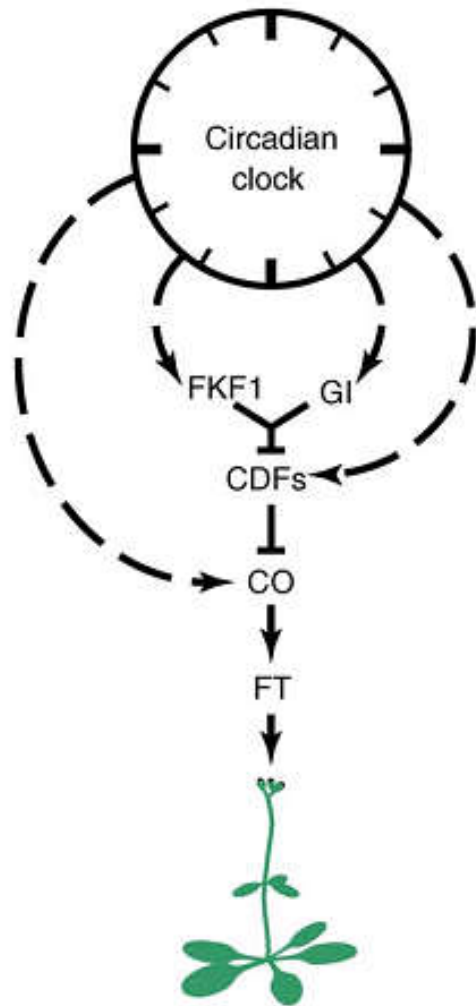


(b) Short Days

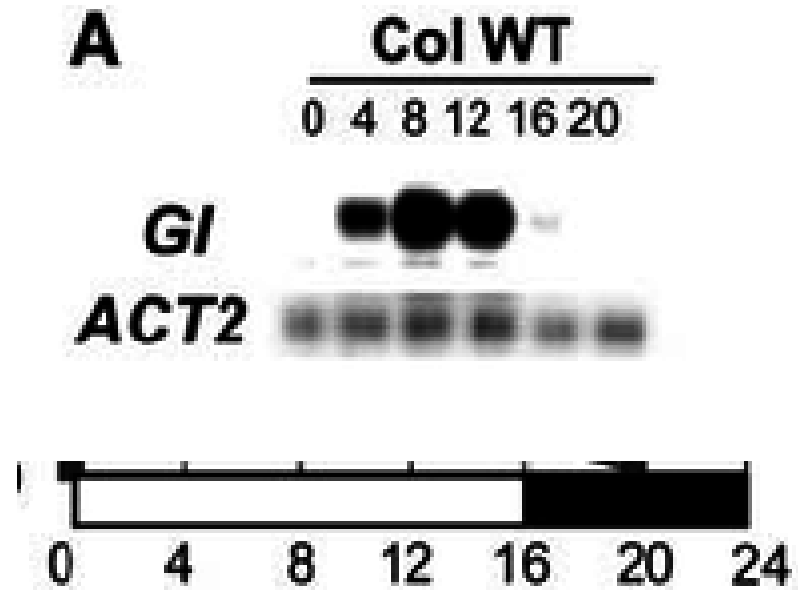


TRENDS in Genetics





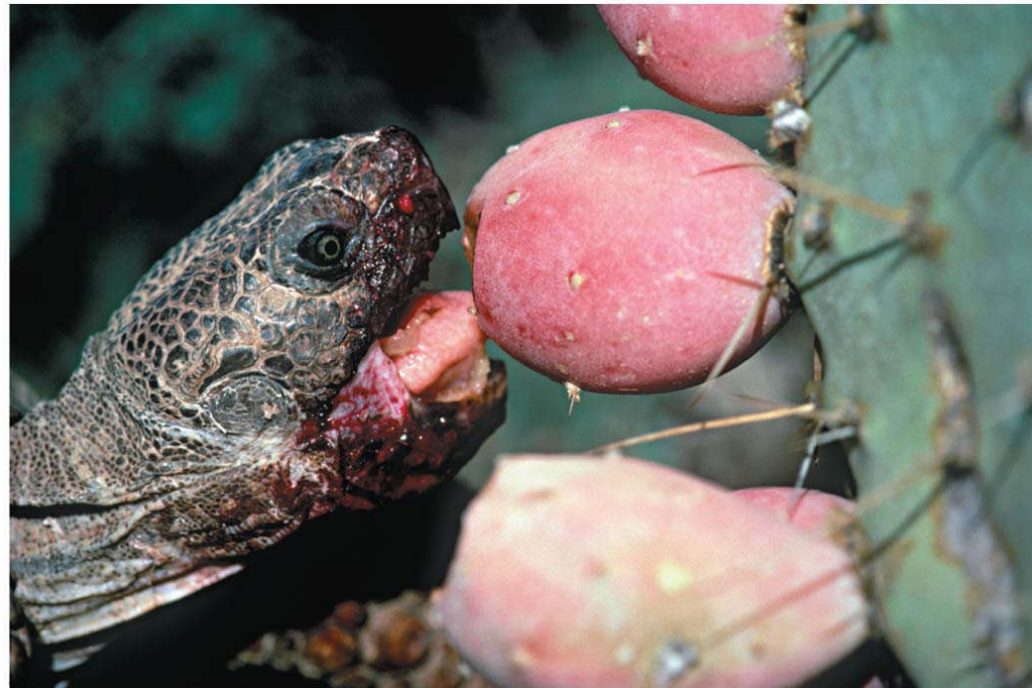
TRENDS in Genetics



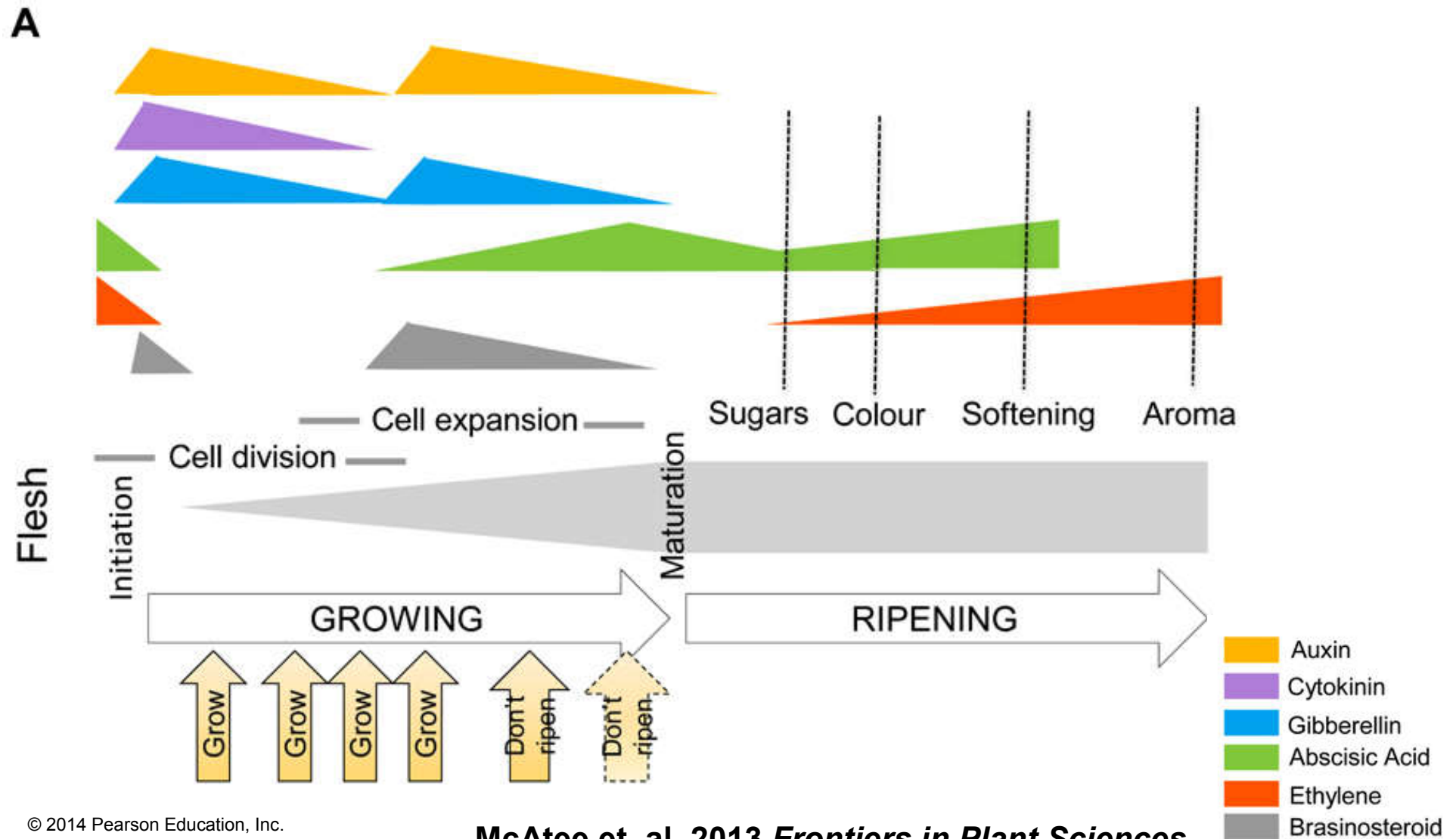
## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

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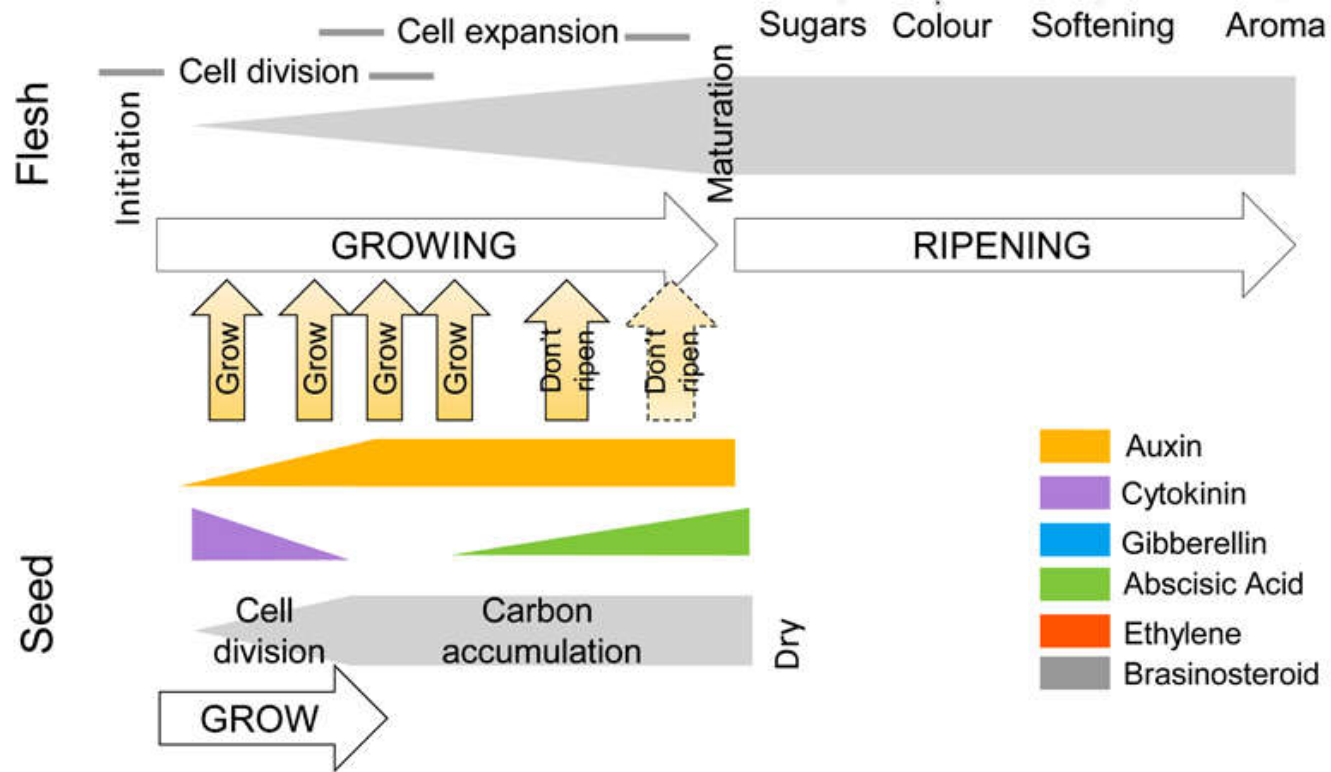
- Hormones coordinate the development and ripening of fruits and seeds
  - Seed maturation and fruit ripening are closely coordinated



# 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?



# 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?



## The "seed control" hypothesis

the seeds communicate through hormones to the surrounding tissue(s) to promote fruit growth through firstly cell division and later on cell expansion

## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

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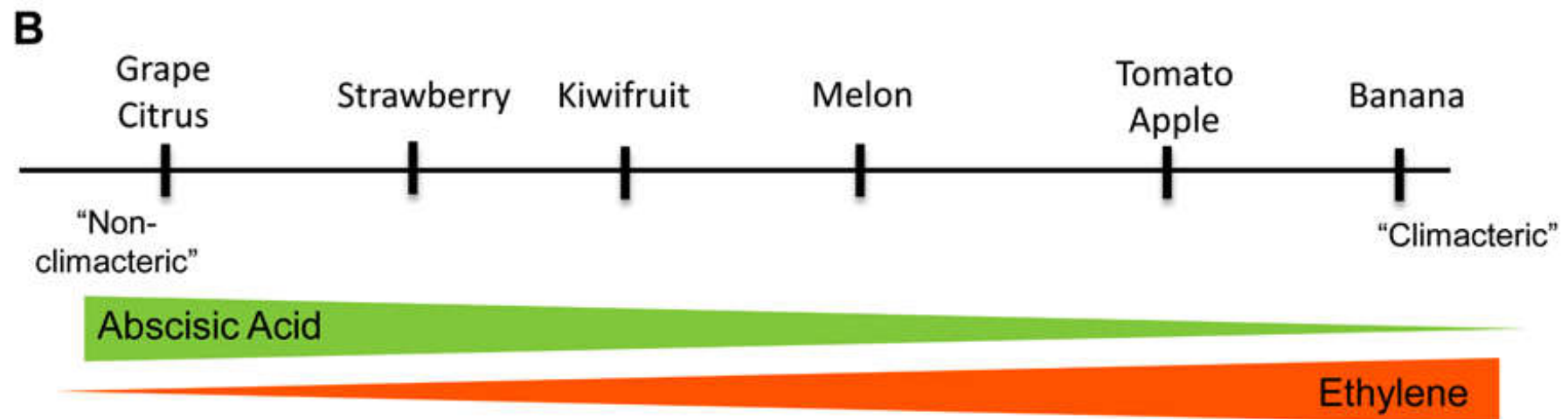
**+GA**

**-GA**

## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

- Climacteric fruit (更年期果实; 呼吸跃变型果实) vs. non-climacteric fruit

Climacteric fruit are characterized by a **ripening-associated increase in respiration and in ethylene production**, the phytohormone ethylene being the major trigger and coordinator of the ripening process



## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

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- Senescence and dormancy prepare the plant for winter

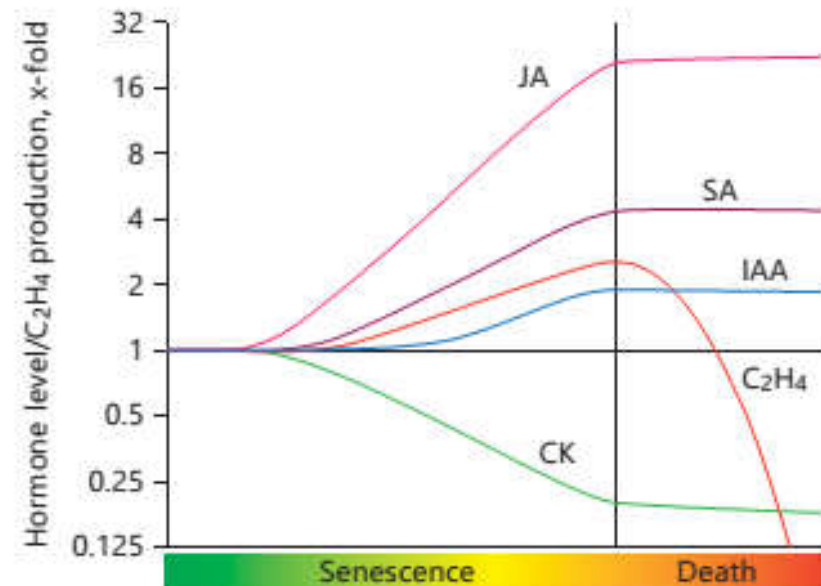
In autumn, under the influence of **shortening days and falling temperatures**, plants undergo **senescence (衰老)**, a **genetically programmed series of events** that prepares the plant for winter



# 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

## During Leaf Senescence

- Starches and chlorophyll are broken down
- Dismantling of cellular organelles, degradation of protein, nucleic acid, lipid and remobilization of nutrients and nitrogen compounds
- Respiration is maintained and transcriptional machinery remains active
- Many hormones influence senescence
  1. Age-dependent, developmental senescence,
  2. Stress-regulated senescence



Khan et. al. 2014 *Gerontology*



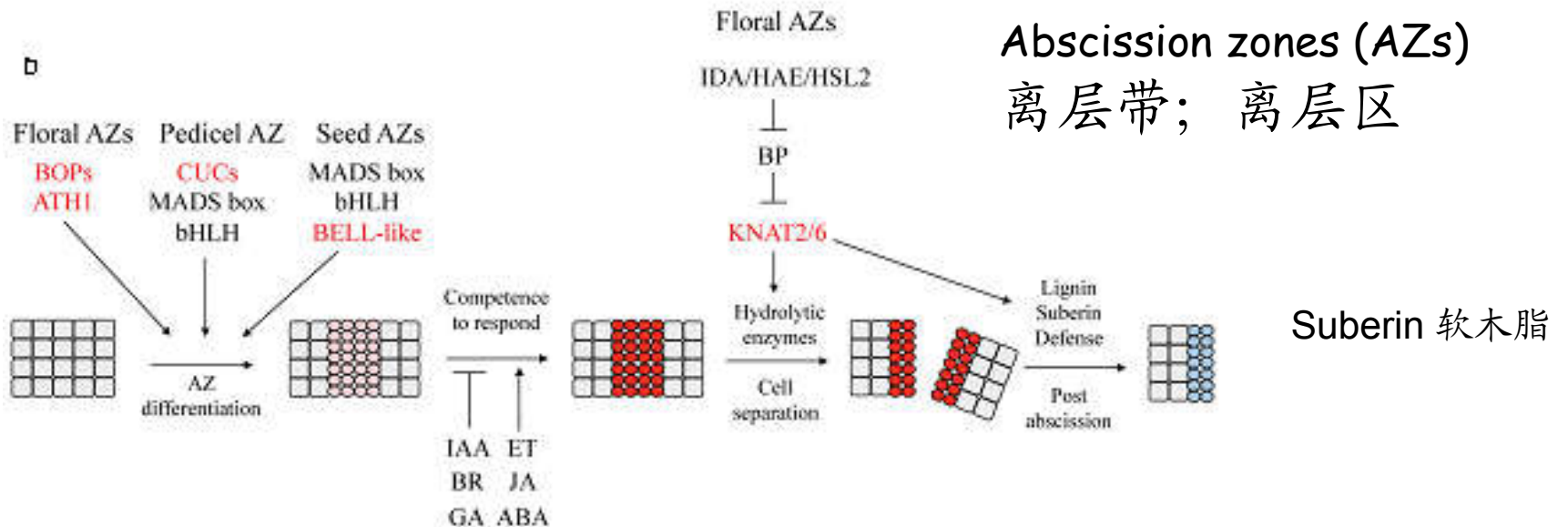
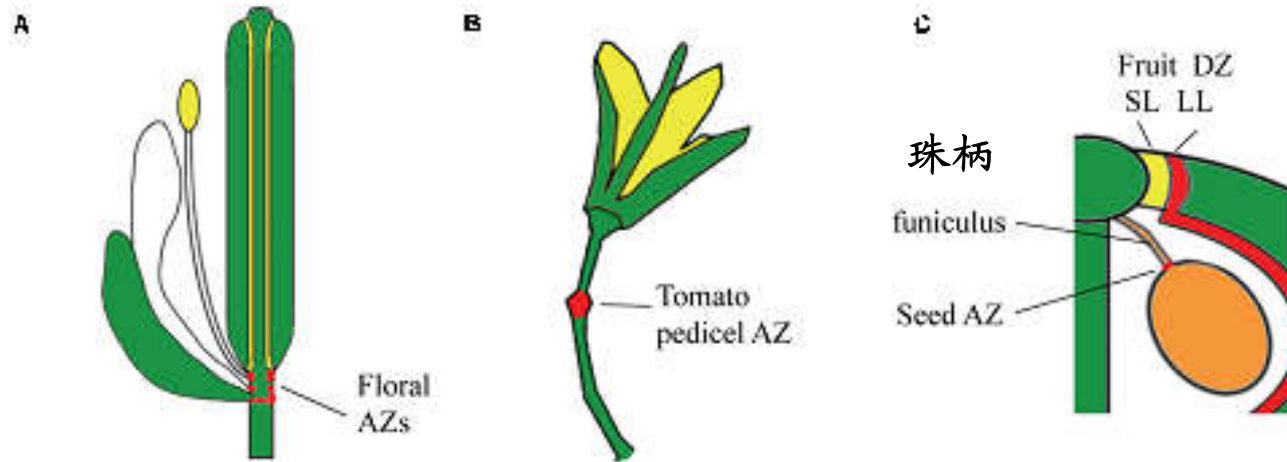
## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?

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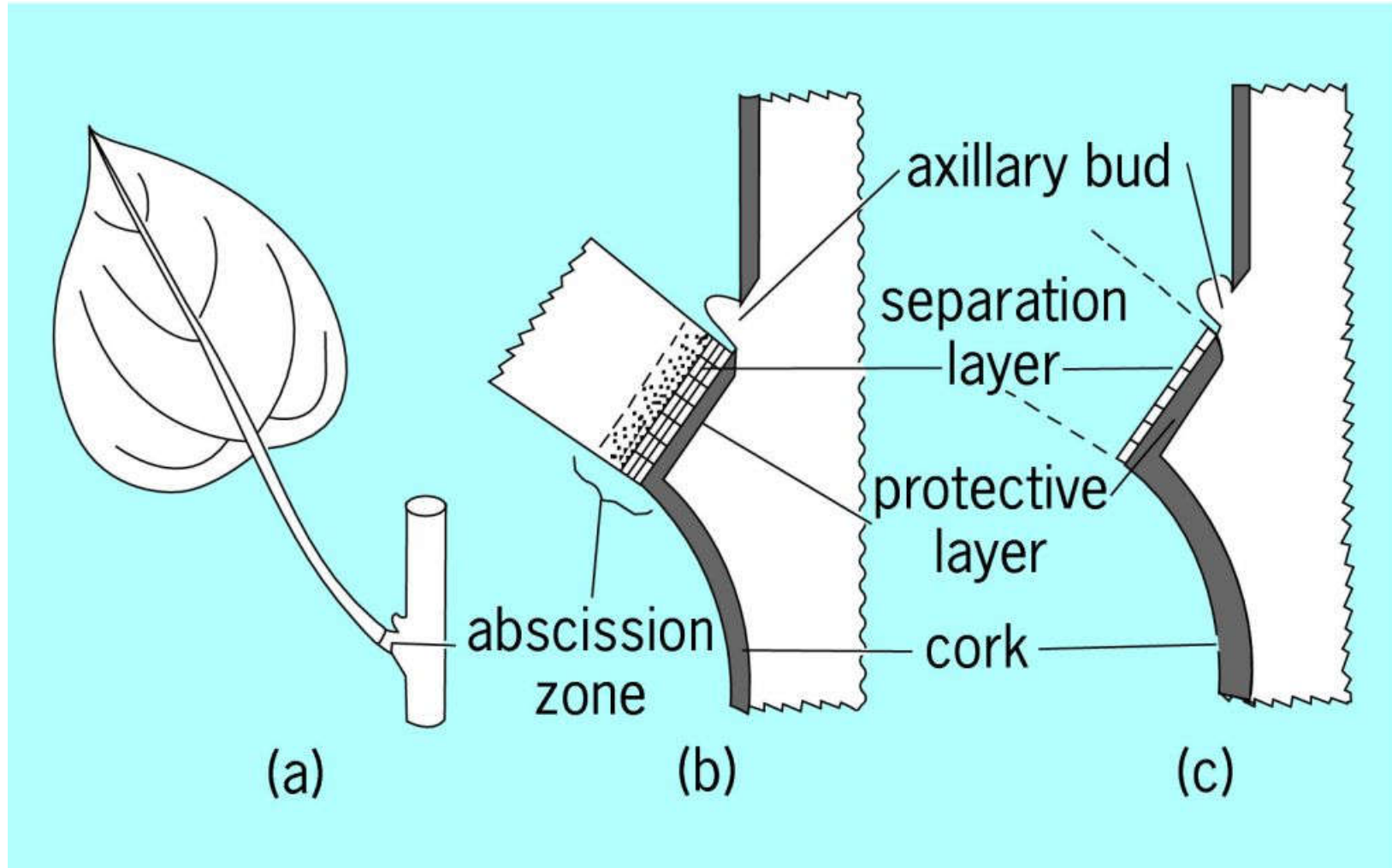
- Senescence and dormancy prepare the plant for winter
  - In autumn, under the influence of shortening days and falling temperatures, plants undergo senescence (衰老), a genetically programmed series of events that prepares the plant for winter
- Abscission
  - The abscission layer is located where fruit or leaf stalks join the stem



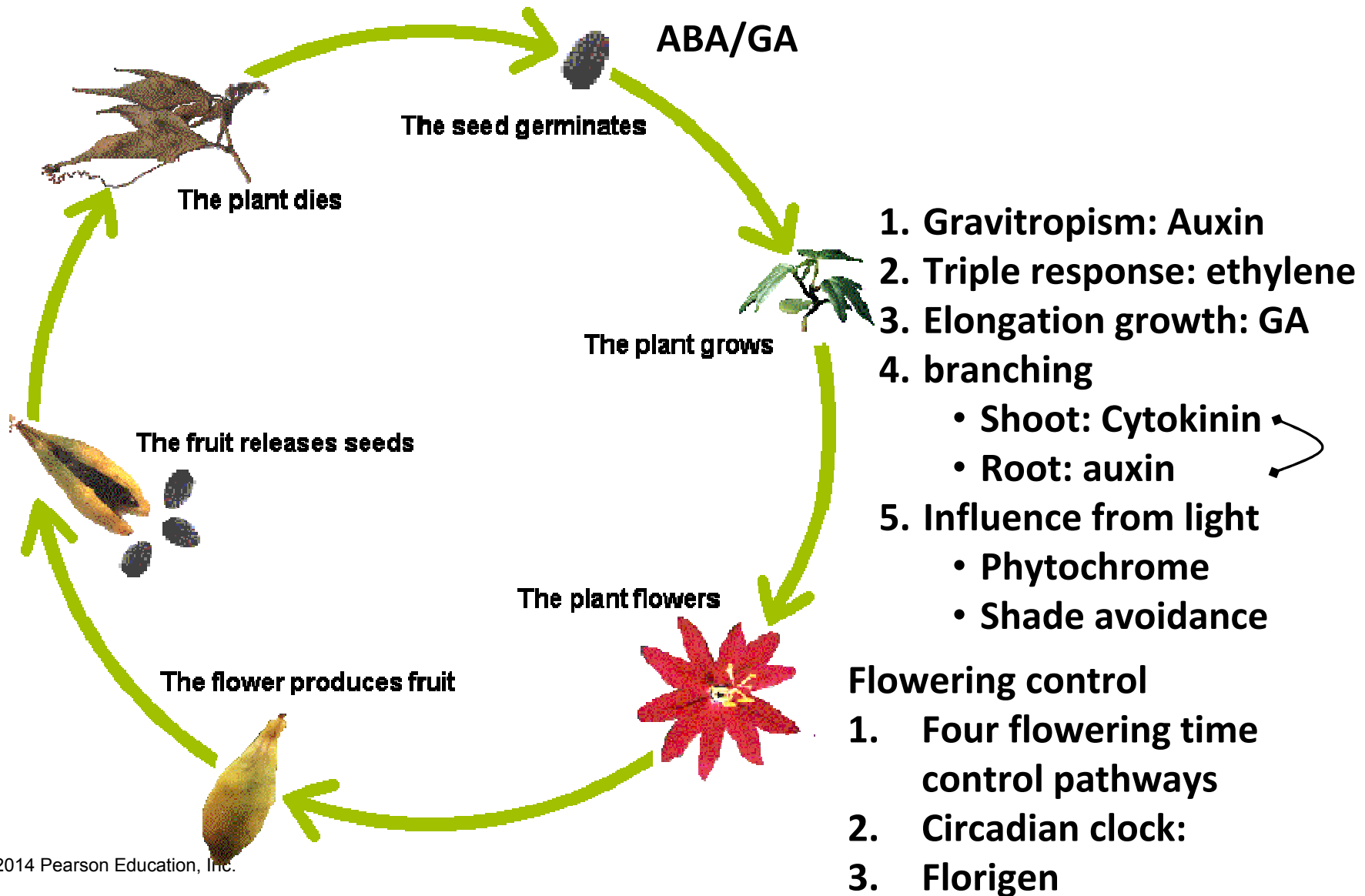
# 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?



## 45.2 How Do Hormones Regulate Plant Life Cycles?



# Summary



# Summary

## Senescence

Leaf senescence

age-dependent

stress-dependent

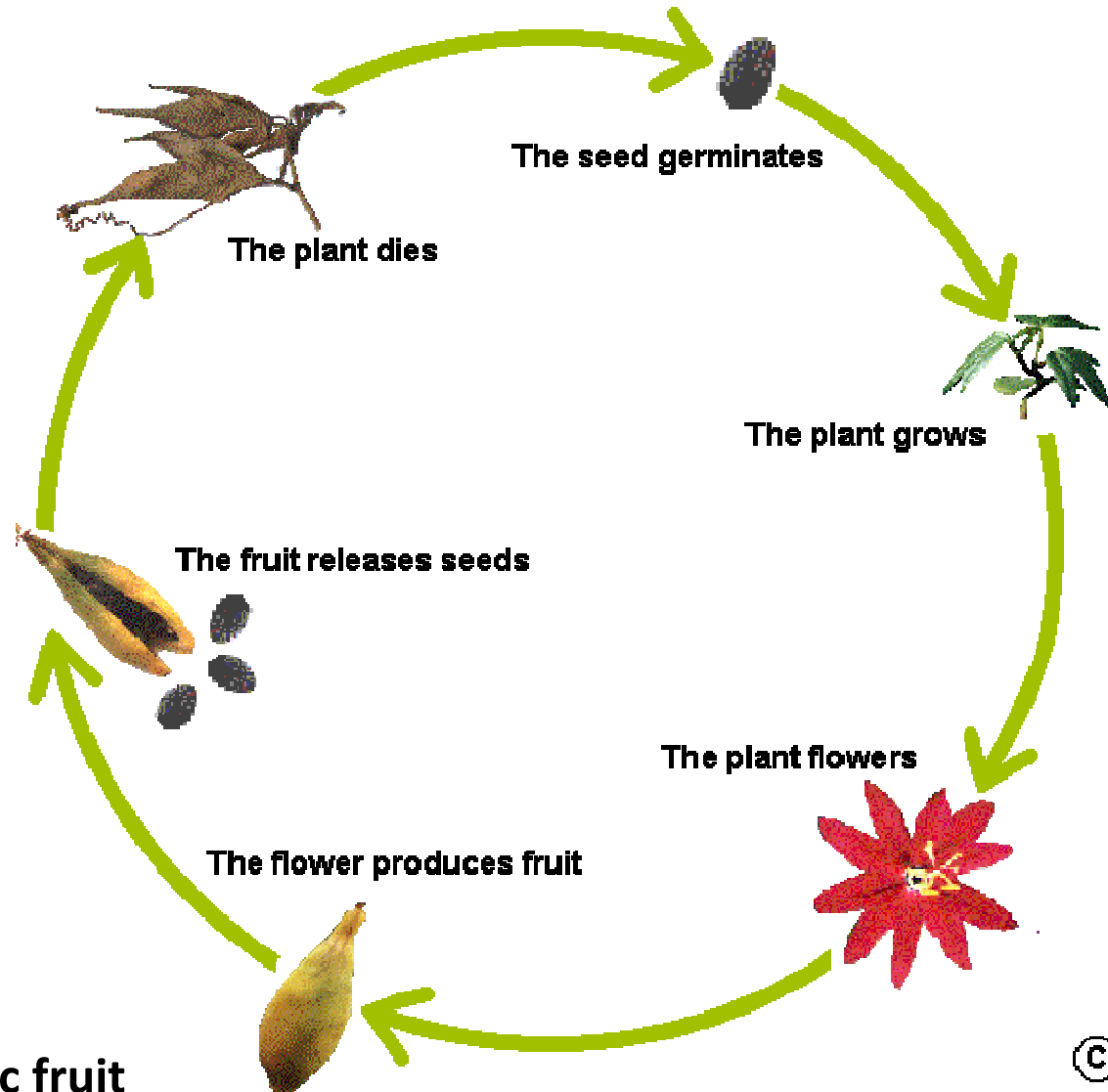
Abscission

Fruit growth: GA

Fruit ripening: ET/ABA

Climacteric / non-climacteric fruit

© 2014 Pearson Education, Inc.



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## 45.3 How Do Plants Communicate, Defend Themselves, and Capture Prey?

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# Plant Defense— against microbial pathogens

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## Nonspecific defense mechanisms

- Physical barrier
  - Waxy cuticle, cell wall, cell membrane
  - Callose (胼胝质), induced upon infections
- Chemical barrier
  - Saponin (皂素, glycosylated triterpenoids 三萜)

# Plant Defense— against microbial pathogens

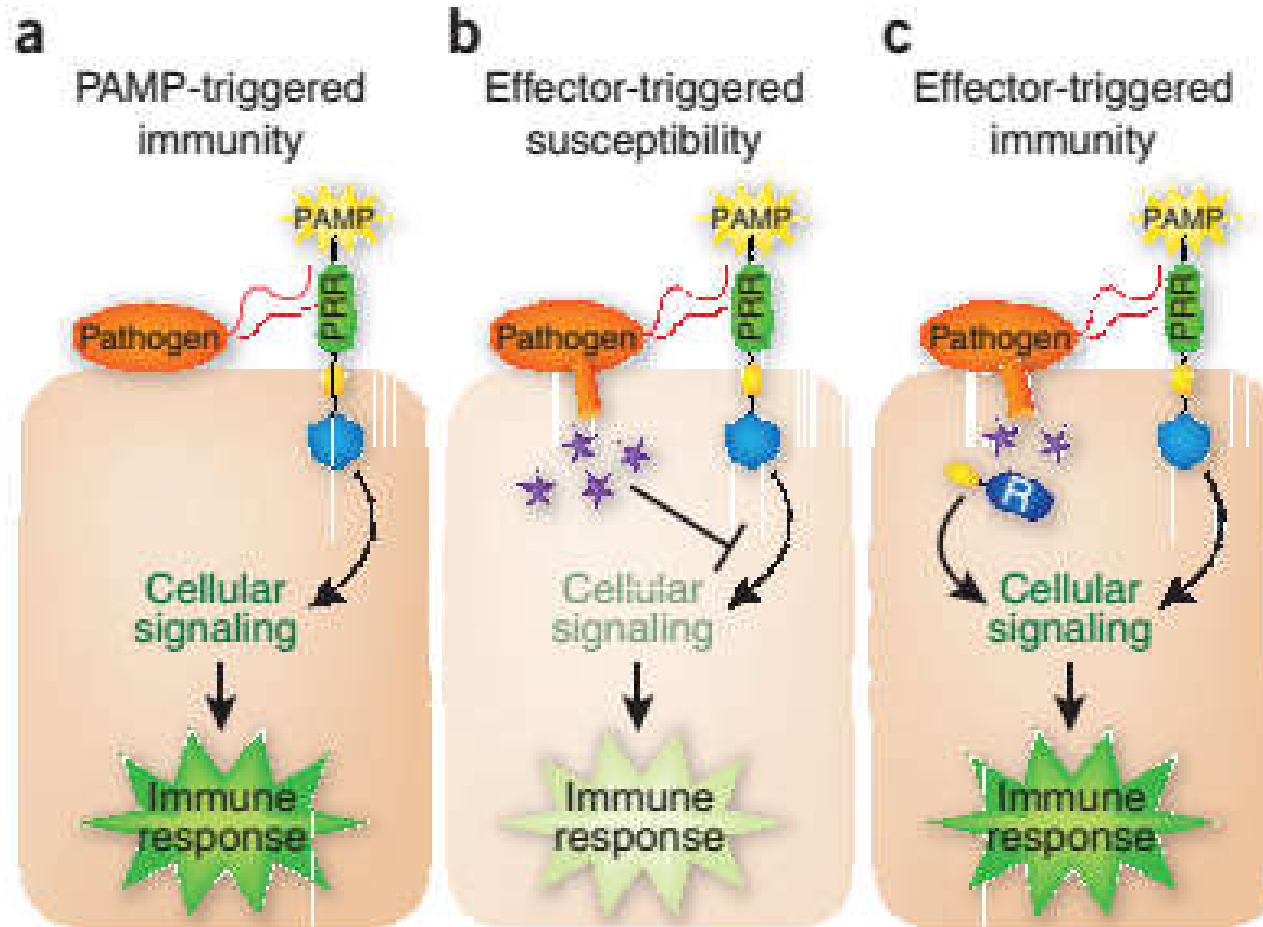
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## Specific defense mechanisms

- PTI, PAMP triggered immunity
  - **PAMP/MAMP**: pathogen (病原体)/microbe-associated molecular patterns
  - Examples: flagellins and peptidoglycan (肽聚糖) (bacteria), chitin (fungi)
  - Recognized by pattern-recognition receptors (PRR) e.g. FLS2-flagellin
- ETI, effector triggered immunity
  - Plant evolved resistance proteins (R) that recognize the presence of some effectors (Avr) **directly or indirectly**, a mechanism so called **gene-for-gene interaction**
  - Effectors: molecules produced by pathogens, which modulate plant immunity and enable parasitic infection e.g. AvrPtoB—targets FLS2 for degradation
  - Example: R protein Prf **detects the presence of AvrPtoB**

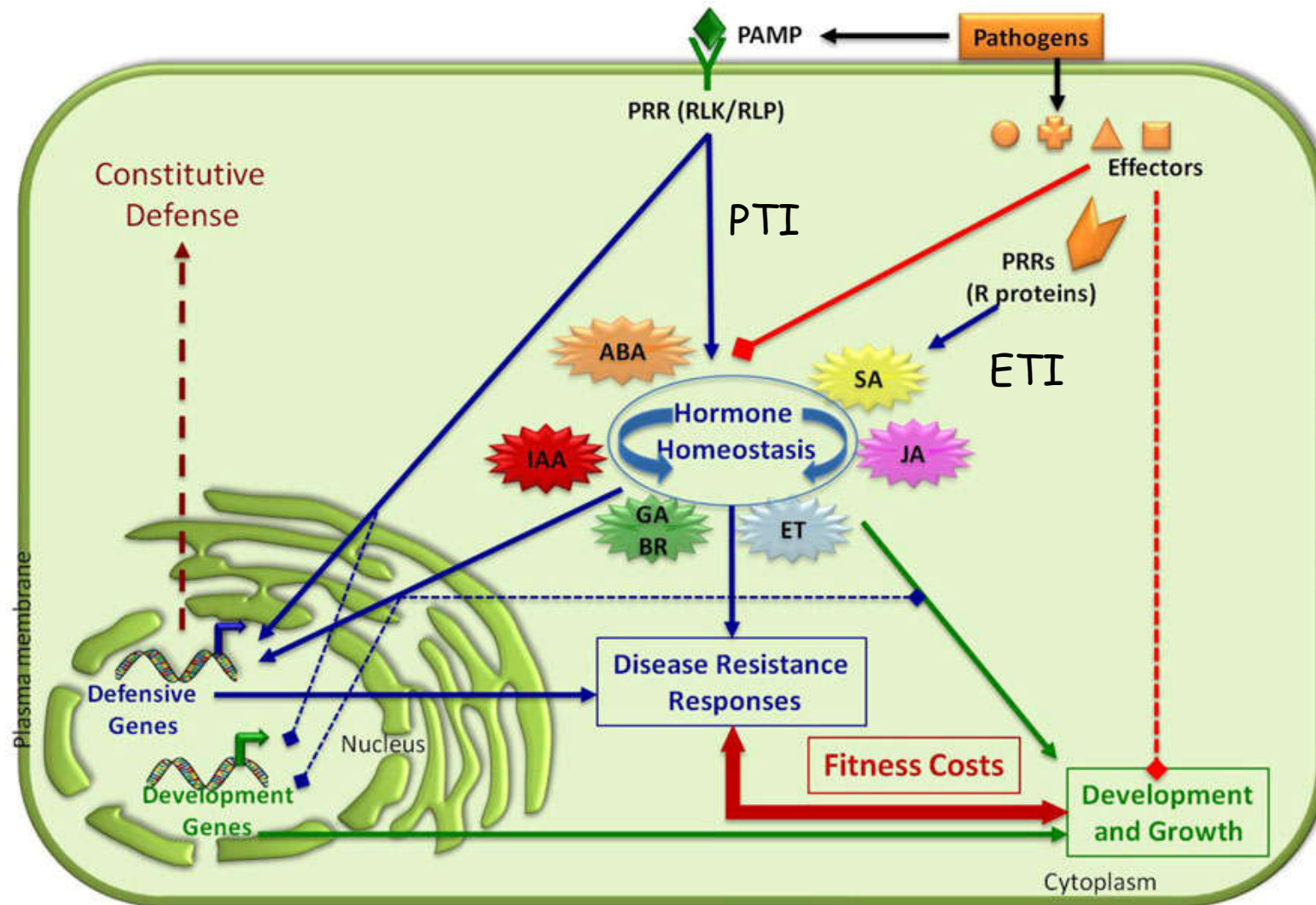


# Plant Defense— against microbial pathogens



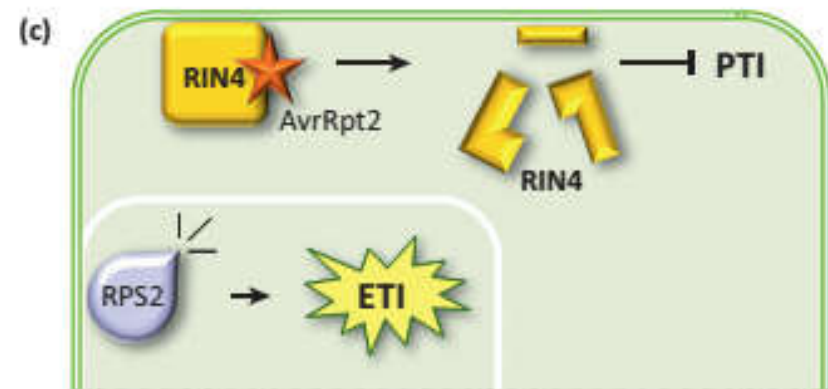
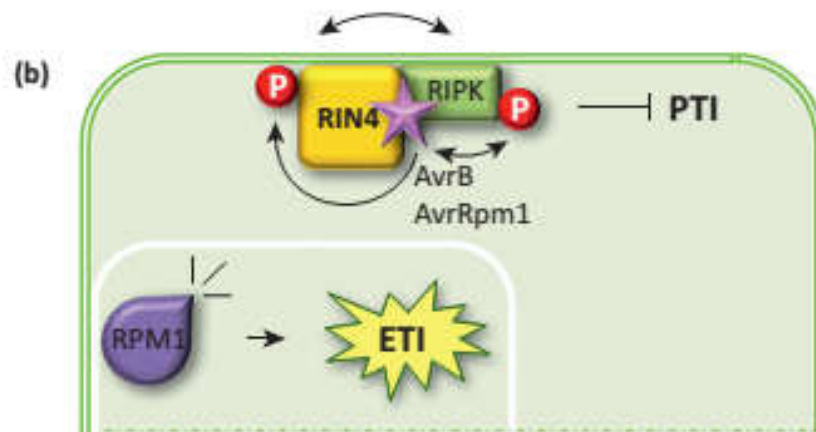
Pieterse et. al. 2009 *Natural Chemical Biology*

# Plant Defense— against microbial pathogens



# Plant Defense— against microbial pathogens

## Guard and guardee model



Guard: R protein;  
Guardee: host proteins, targets of effectors

## 45.3 How Do Plants Communicate, Defend Themselves, and Capture Prey?

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- Local responses: occur at the infection site
- Acquired resistance in uninfected tissues
- Acquired resistance in neighbouring plants

## 45.3 How Do Plants Communicate, Defend Themselves, and Capture Prey?

---

- **Local responses: occur at the infection site**
  - Production of signal molecules and defense genes
  - Mediated by SA or JA/ET
  - In some cases, **hypersensitive cell death** (localized cell death) is induced to restrict pathogens
- Acquired resistance in uninfected tissues
- Acquired resistance in neighbouring plants

# Biotrophic and necrotrophic pathogens

Necrotroph  
*Botrytis cinerea*



Biotroph  
*Hyaloperonospora arabidopsidis*



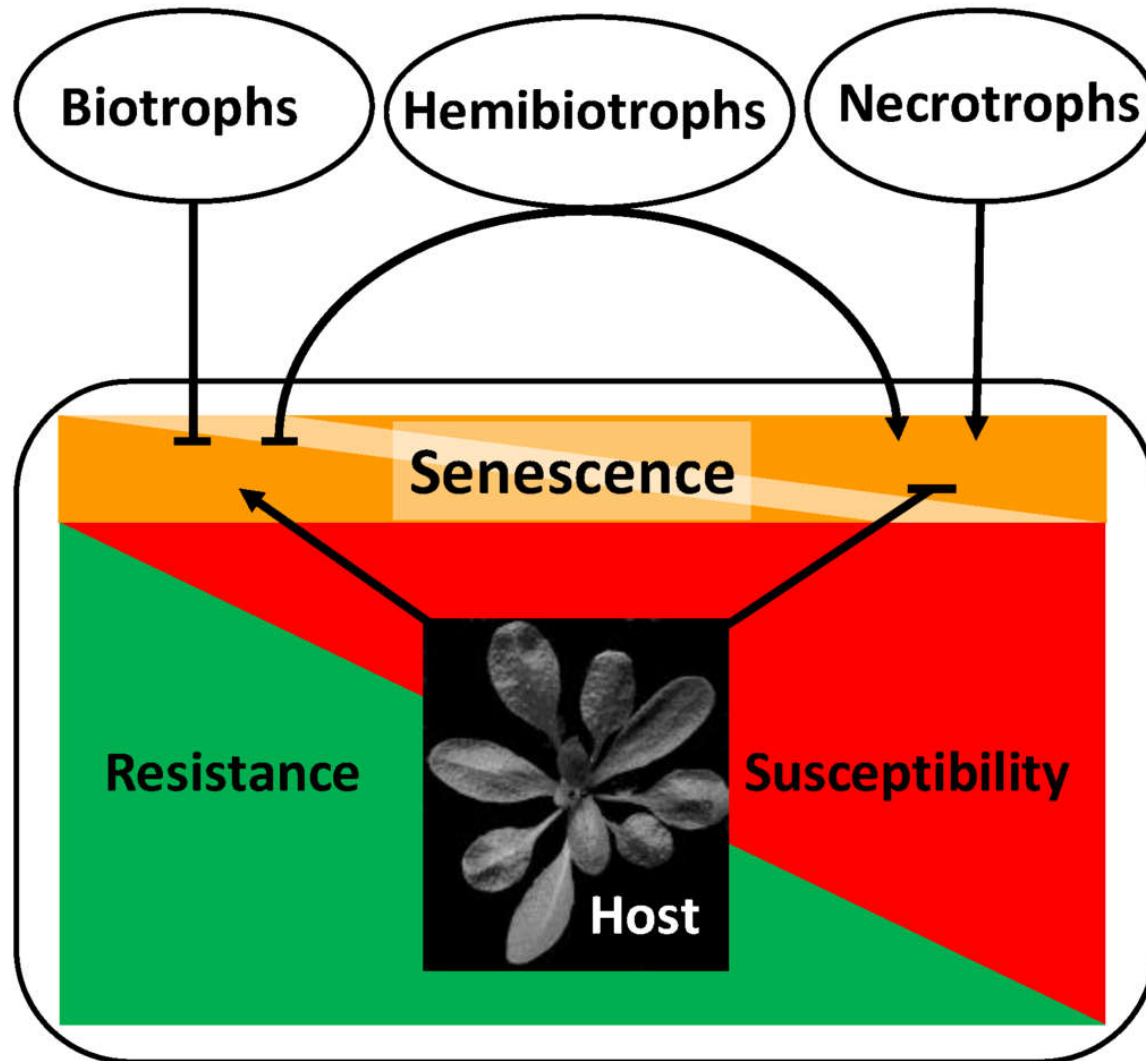
Hemibiotroph  
*Pseudomonas syringae*



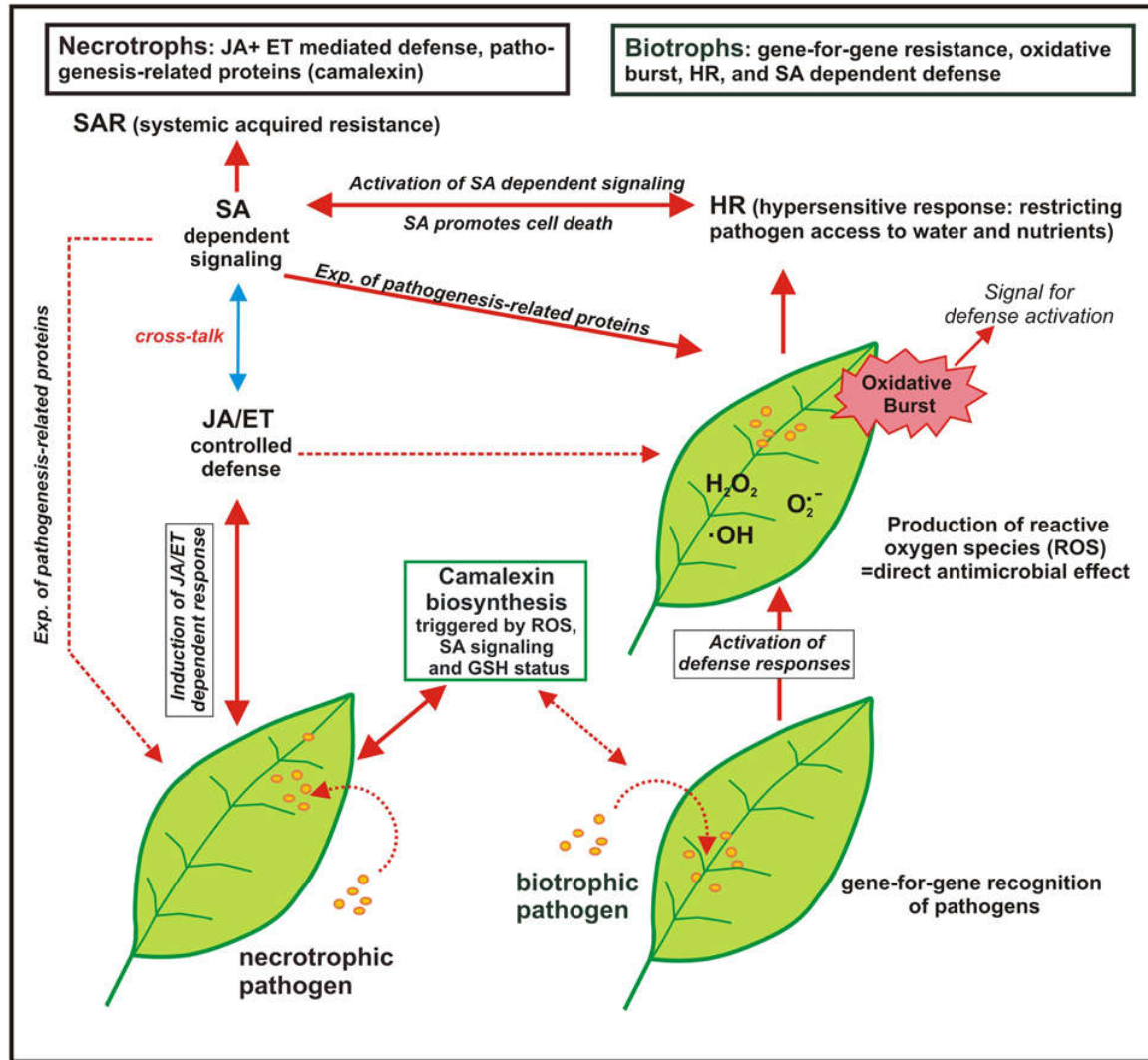
Biotrophs (活体营养型) feed on living host tissue

necrotrophs (死体营养型) cause die-off and feed on the remains

# Biotrophic and necrotrophic pathogens



# Biotrophic and necrotrophic pathogens



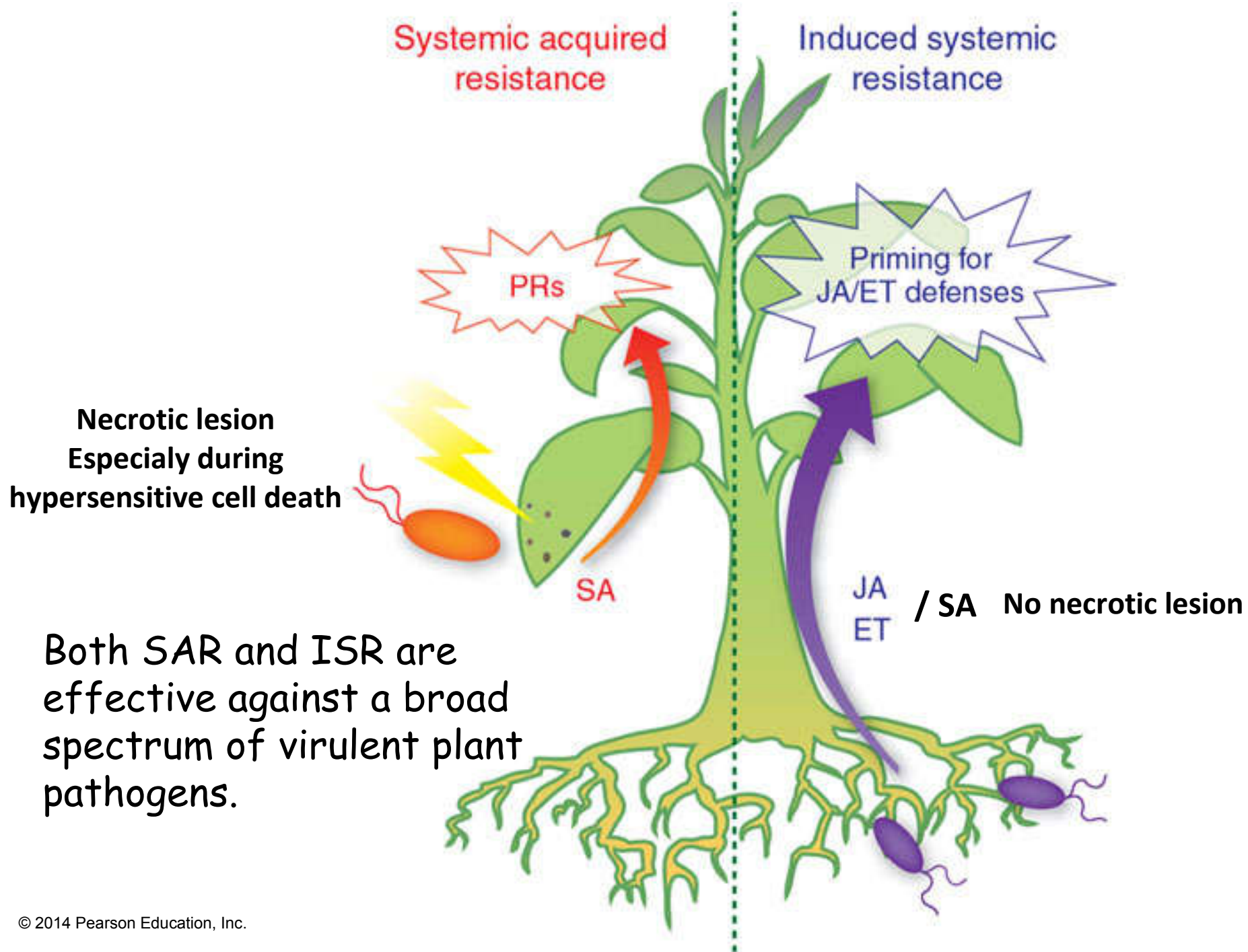
Avr-R interaction



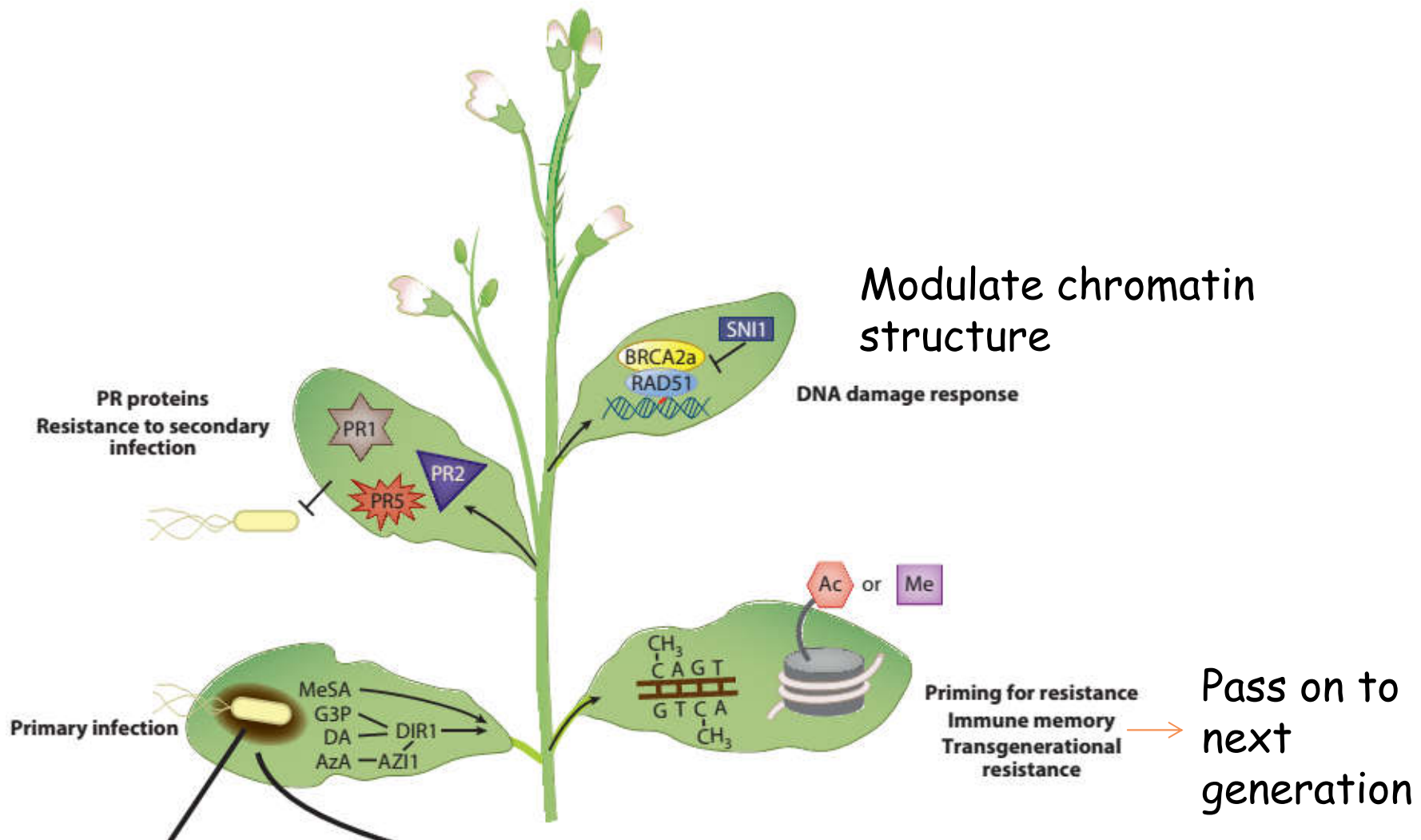
## 45.3 How Do Plants Communicate, Defend Themselves, and Capture Prey?

---

- **Local responses: occur at the infection site**
  - Production of signal molecules and defense genes
  - In some cases, hypersensitive cell death (localized cell death) is induced to restrict pathogens
  - Mediated by SA or JA/ET
- **Acquired resistance in uninfected tissues**
  - SAR: Systemic acquired resistance (is typically activated in healthy systemic tissues of locally infected plants)
  - ISR: Induced systemic resistance (typically activated upon colonization of plant roots by beneficial microorganisms)
- **Acquired resistance in neighbouring plants**



# Acquired resistance responses

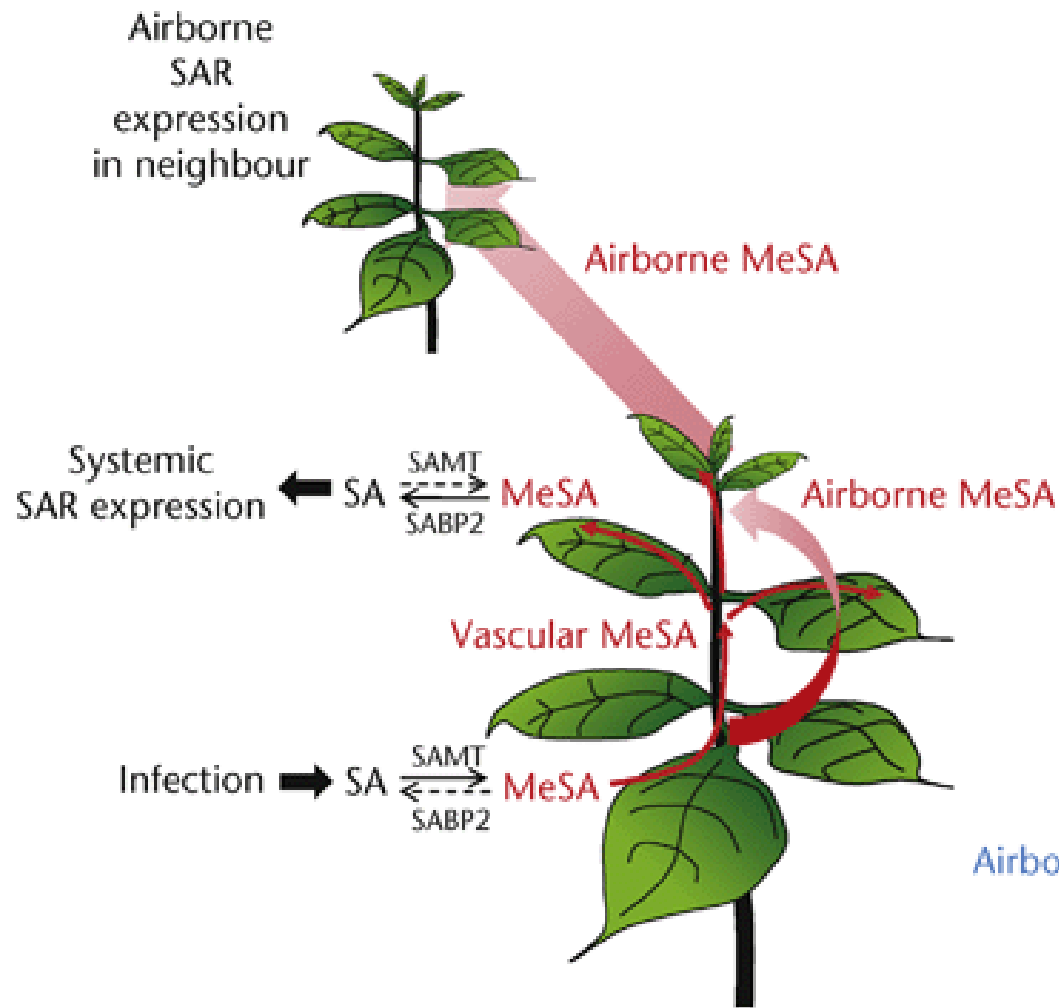


## 45.3 How Do Plants Communicate, Defend Themselves, and Capture Prey?

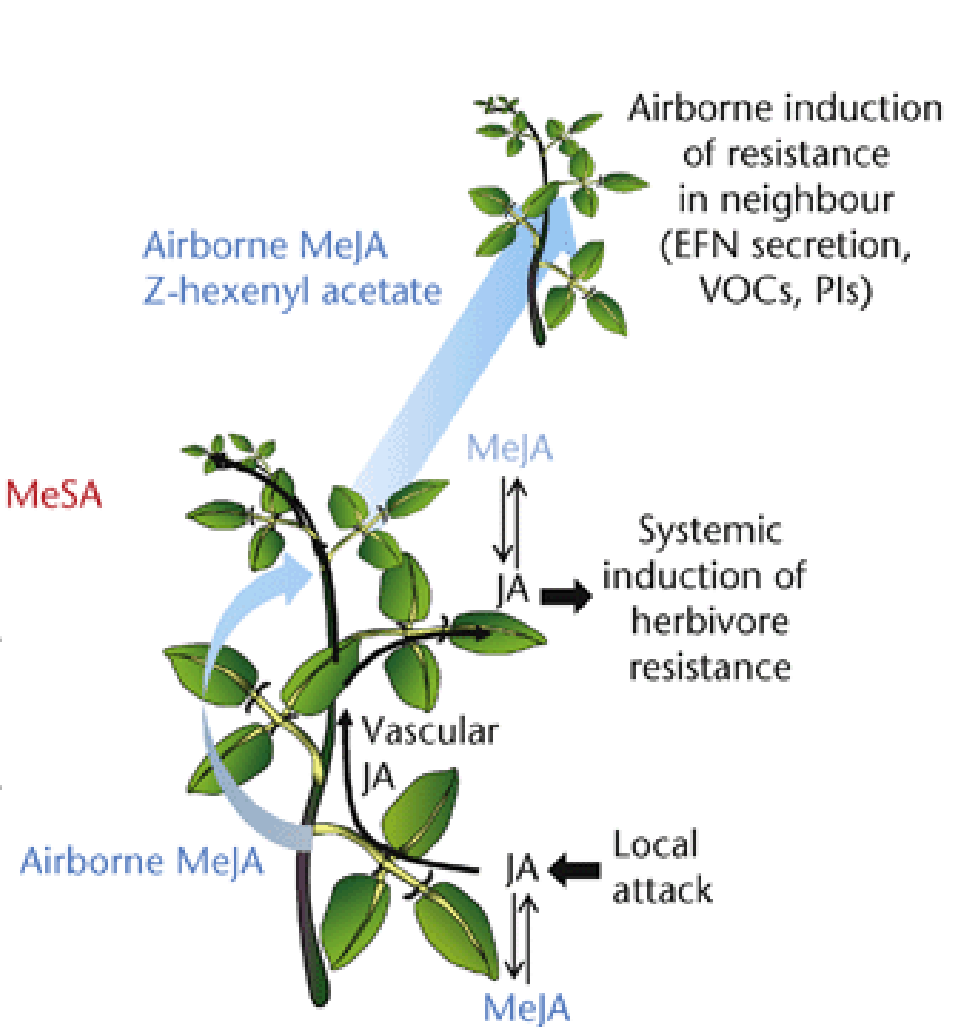
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- **Local responses: occur at the infection site**
  - Production of signal molecules and defense genes
  - In some cases, hypersensitive cell death (localized cell death) is induced to restrict pathogens
  - Mediated by SA or JA/ET
- **Acquired resistance in uninfected tissues**
  - SAR: Systemic acquired resistance (is typically activated in healthy systemic tissues of locally infected plants)
  - ISR: Induced systemic resistance (typically activated upon colonization of plant roots by beneficial microorganisms)
- **Acquired resistance in neighbouring plants**
  - Can occur between plants of the same / different species

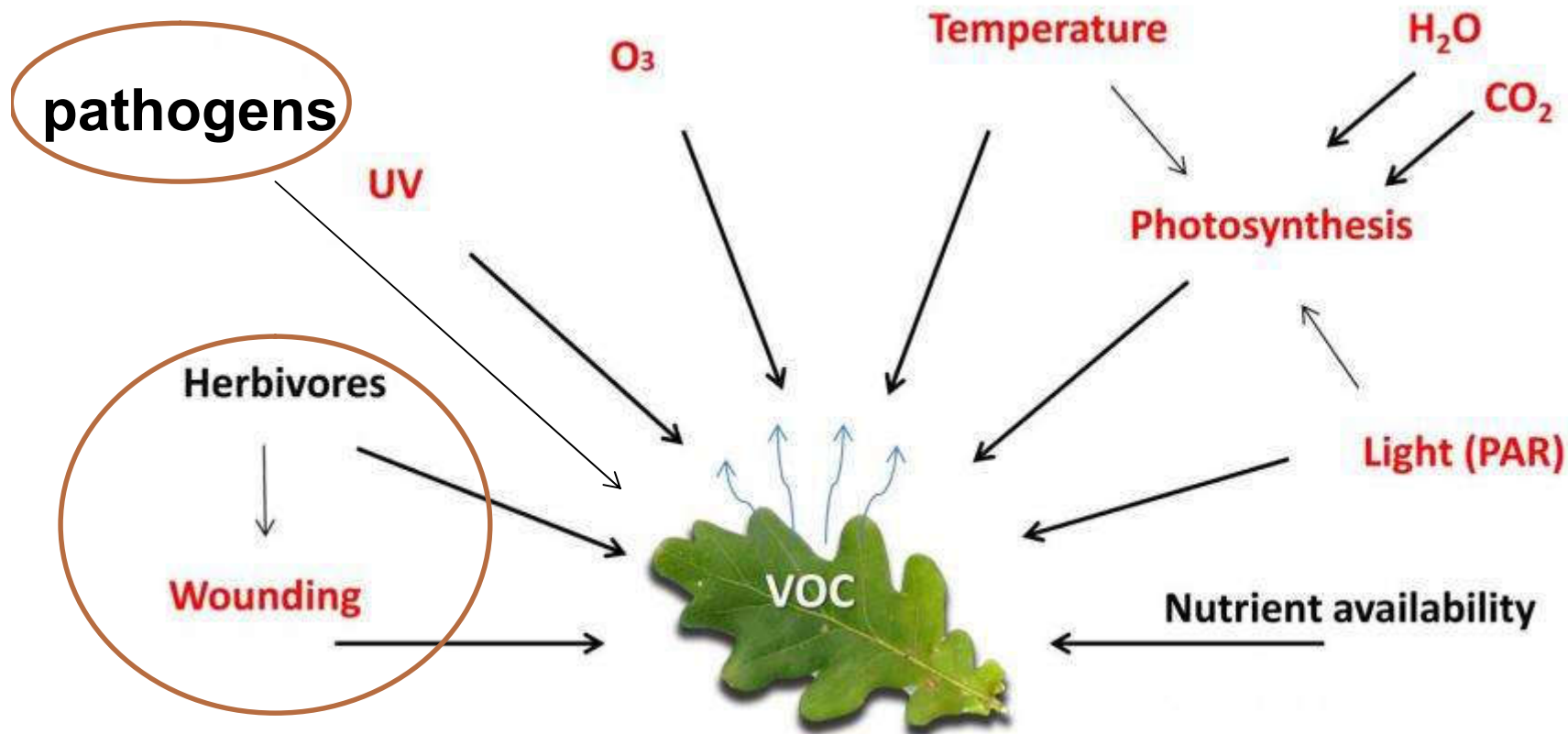
Airborne induction of SAR  
in systemic tissues and neighbouring plants



Airborne induction of herbivore resistance  
in systemic tissues and neighbouring plants

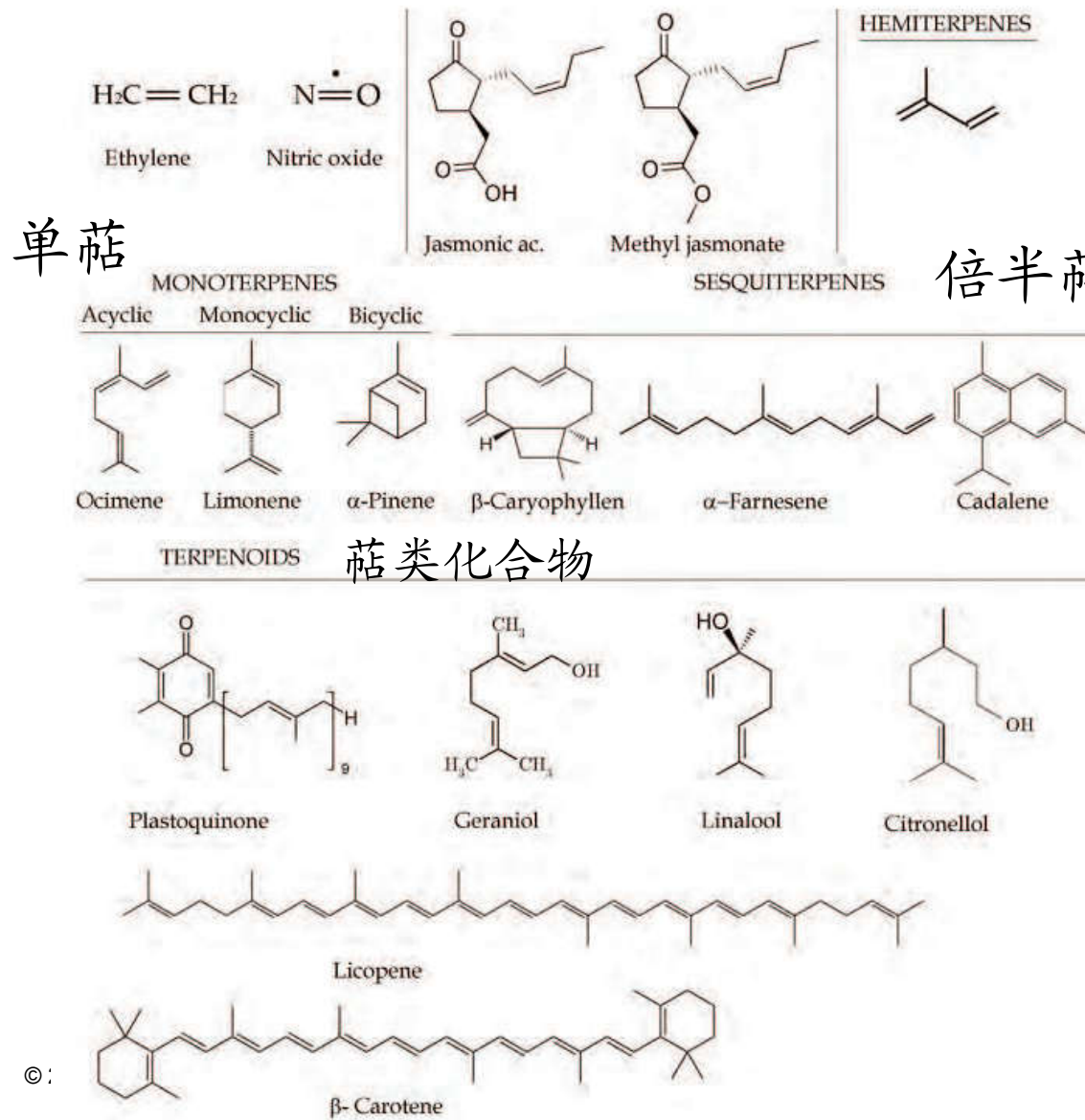


# VOC: volatile organic compounds



Impact of abiotic and biotic factors on plant VOC emission. The factors in red are affected by any plant enclosure.

# VOC: volatile organic compounds



- pollinator attraction,
- plant-plant communication,
- **plant-pathogen interactions,**
- **indirect plant defense against insects**
- reactive oxygen species removal,
- thermo-tolerance
- environmental stress adaptation.

# VOCs in Plant defense

---

- Induce defense response in neighbouring plants
  - By infected plants
  - By wounded plants
  - BUT, some insects can sense these VOCs to localize target plants
  - Some plants change components of VOCs after insect attack
    - Wild tobacco plants munched on by hornworms (hawk moth caterpillars 天蛾的幼虫 ) release different chemicals at different times

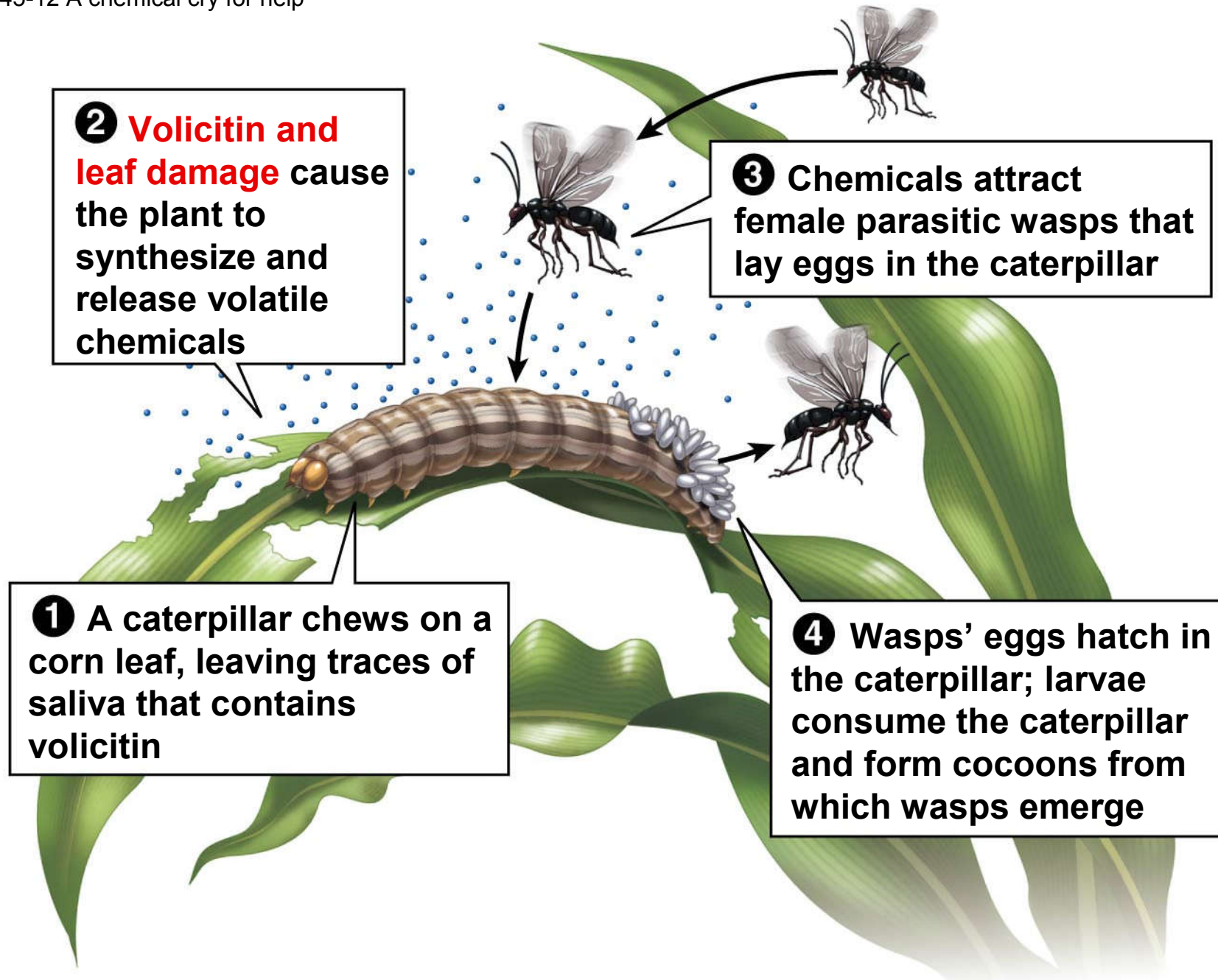


# VOCs in Plant defense

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- Induce defense response in neighbouring plants
- summon insect “bodyguards” when being attacked

Figure 45-12 A chemical cry for help



# VOCs in Plant defense

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- Induce defense response
- summon insect “bodyguards” when being attacked
  - lima bean (利马豆) plants that are attacked by spider mites (六点黄蜘蛛) release a chemical that attracts a carnivorous mite that preys on the spider mite

# Plant Defense– against **insects**

---

## ■ Plant senses

- Wounding
- Chemicals in saliva

## ■ Plant respond by

- produce signaling molecules, e.g. JA, ET, VOCs
- stimulates responses that make the plant **more distasteful, more difficult to eat, or more toxic**
  - **nicotine** (尼古丁, 烟碱), a poison used commercially as an insecticide
  - Radish plants attacked by caterpillars produce a **bitter-tasting chemical** and grow **more spiny hairs** on their leaves

## 45.3 How Do Plants Communicate, Defend Themselves, and Capture Prey?

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- Sensitive plants react to touch



**(a) Before the leaves are touched**



**(b) After the leaves are touched**

thigmotropism (向触性),

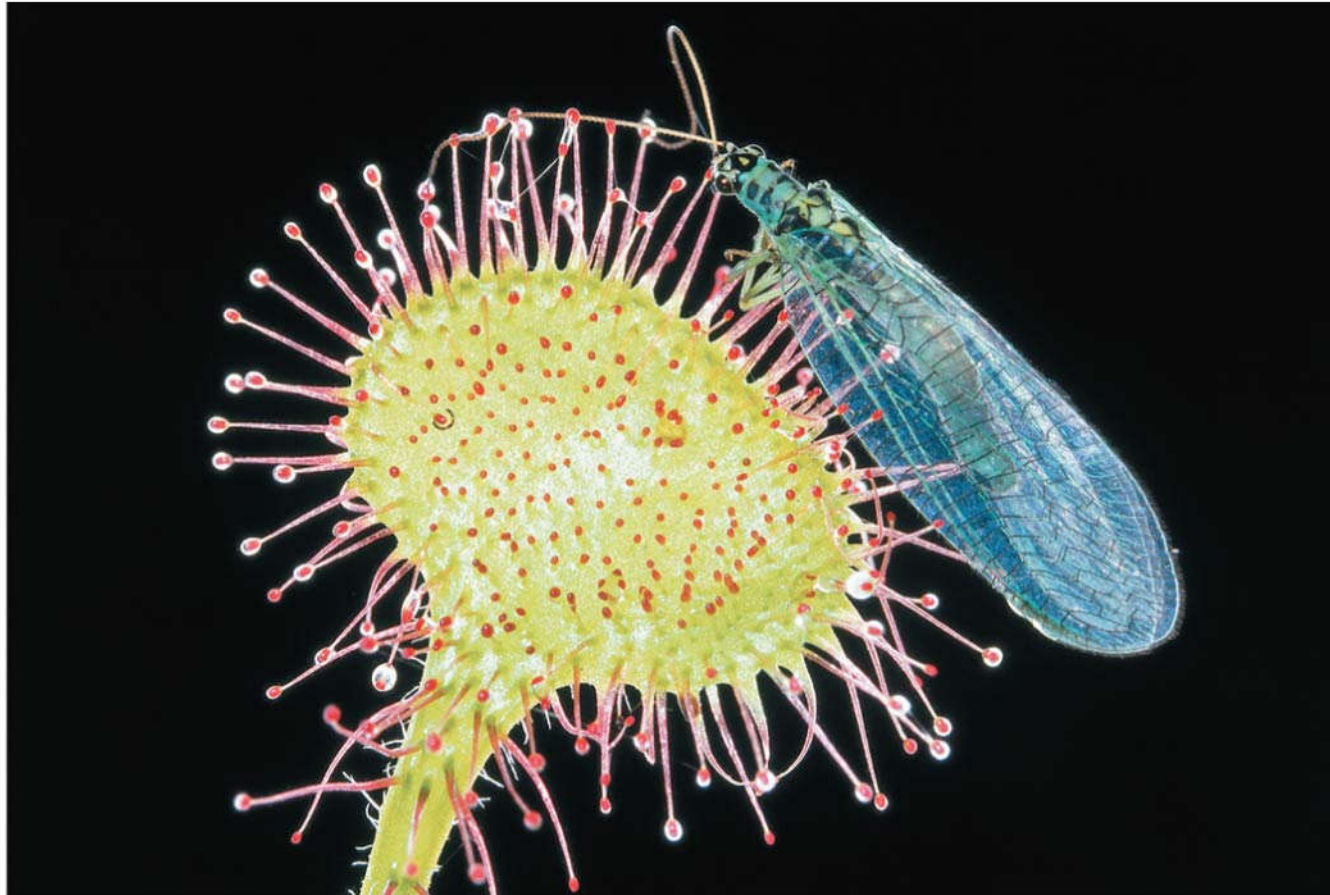
## 45.3 How Do Plants Communicate, Defend Themselves, and **Capture Prey?**

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- Carnivorous sundews (毛毡苔) and bladderworts (狸藻类植物) respond rapidly to prey
  - Some plants have evolved ingenious prey-catching behavior



Figure 45-14 A sundew with its insect prey

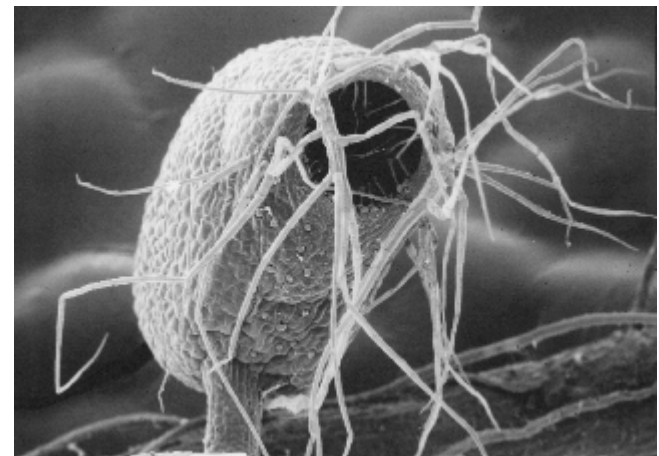


Sundew leaves

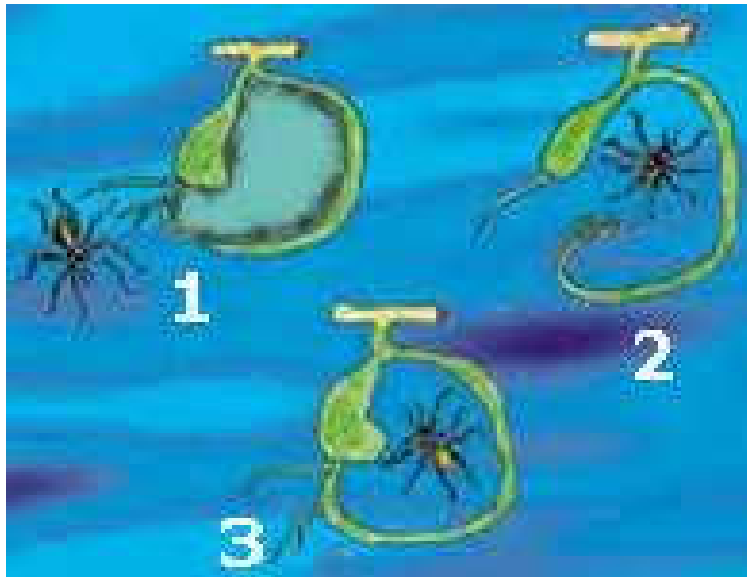
## 45.3 How Do Plants Communicate, Defend Themselves, and Capture Prey?

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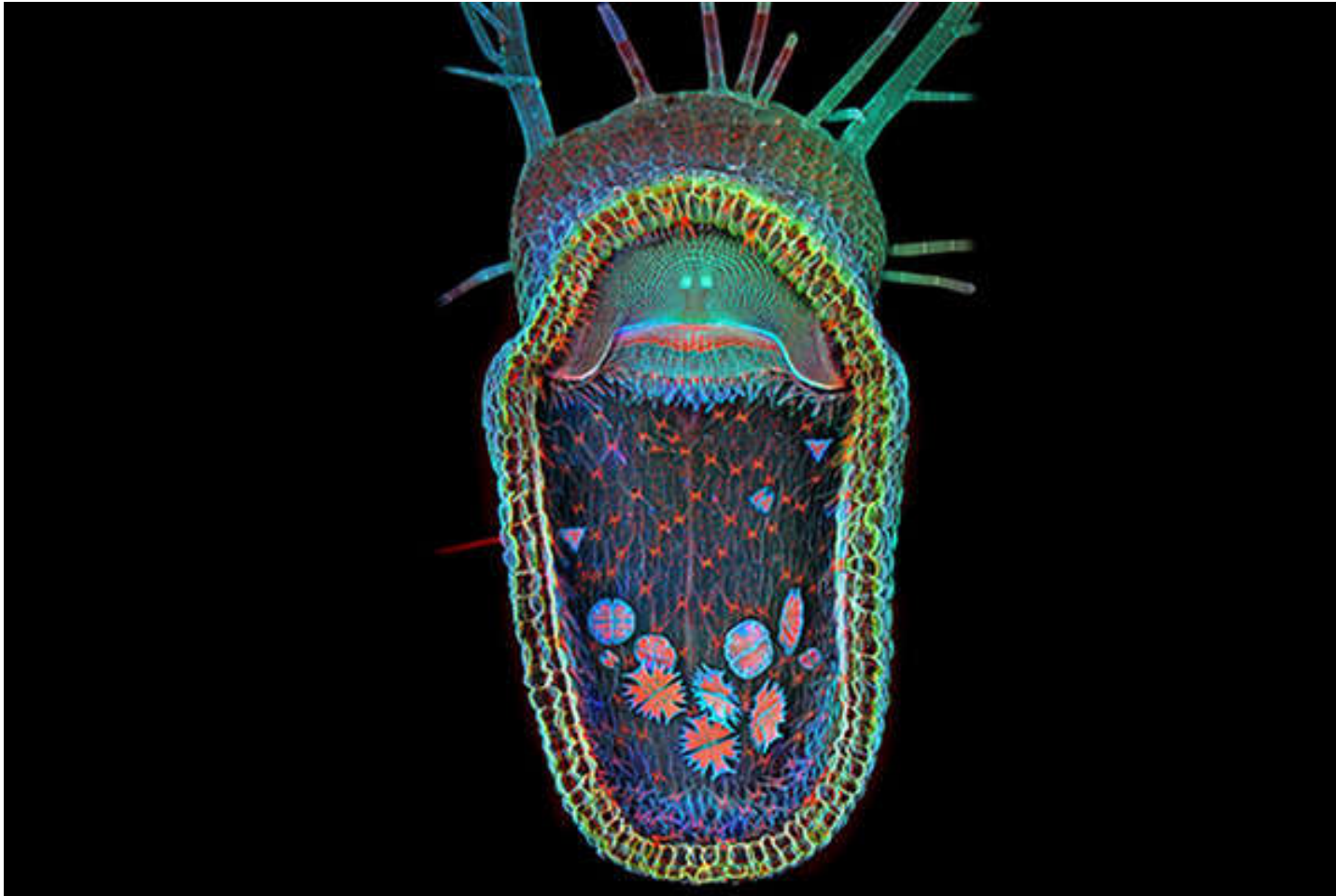
- The world's speediest plant is the predatory aquatic bladderwort (狸藻类植物)





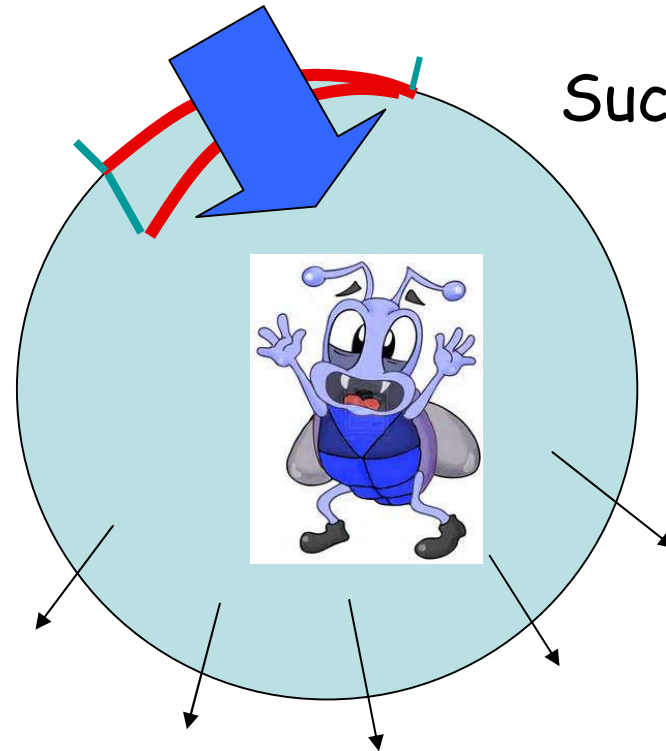


The bladder's trapdoor opens inwards, sucking in the prey in around one thousandth of a second



The gaping "mouth" of an aquatic killer that sucks in prey just a millisecond after the victims trigger its teensy hairs has been captured in a spellbinding image that has snagged first prize in a micro-photo competition.

Sealed by sticky secretions



Suck in water and prey

Ions being transported out

Water leaves the bladder by osmosis

# Summary

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## Defense against microbial pathogens

### Nonspecific defense mechanisms

- Physical barrier
- Chemical barrier

### Specific defense

- PTI, PAMP triggered immunity
- ETI, effector triggered immunity

### Defense at different sites

- Local responses: occur **at the infection site: biotrophic/ necrotrophic**
- Acquired resistance in **uninfected tissues: SAR, ISR**
- Acquired resistance in **neighbouring plants: VOC**

## Defense against insects

- sense
- Defense mechanism

## Capture prey

**The end of the Plant section!**