



Wood-rotting fungi digest the timber

Brown rot fungi break down cellulose.



Wood-rotting fungi digest the timber

Bacteria, worms, insects and some fungi break down dead plant material so that the nutrients can be recycled.



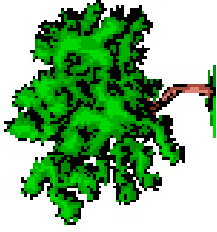
Wood-rotting fungi digest the timber

White rot fungi break down lignin.



Wood-rotting fungi digest the timber

Plant cell walls contain cellulose and lignin that make them strong.



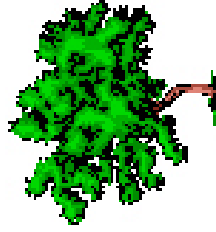
Mycorrhiza - the fungus that makes plant roots work

The plant shares up to 25% of its photosynthetic products with the fungus.



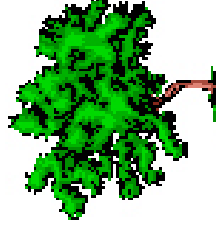
Mycorrhiza - the fungus that makes plant roots work

There are ectomycorrhizas and endomycorrhizas.



Mycorrhiza - the fungus that makes plant roots work

Mycorrhizas improve the plant's ability to withstand environmental extremes.



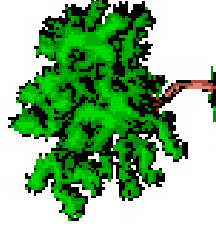
Mycorrhiza - the fungus that makes plant roots work

It is thought that as many as 95% of all plants have mycorrhizal associations.



Mycorrhiza - the fungus that makes plant roots work

Mycorrhizas increase nutrient availability to plants, as they increase the absorptive surface area.



Mycorrhiza - the fungus that makes plant roots work

The mycorrhizal relationship is mutualistic because both plant and fungus gain from having the other present.