



How can these plants grow through asphalt?





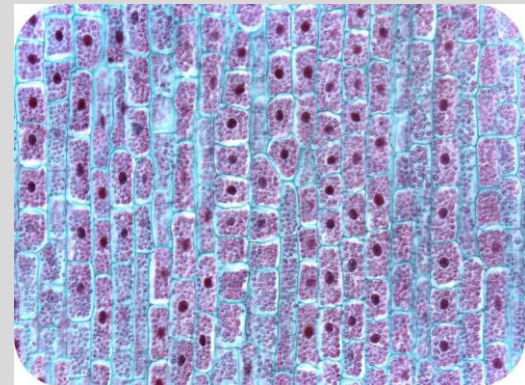
When a plant is able to break through asphalt or concrete, it is usually due to a crack or multiple cracks in the asphalt to the point of breakthrough. While asphalt is rolled flat under pressure to look smooth, it is not always the case.

There are shear zones of weakness due to expansion during the day (asphalt heats up) and contraction at night (asphalt cools down). There is also weathering of the asphalt which aids the plant in pushing upward.



# More to Explore

- What is asphalt? Of what is it composed?
- It's used on streets, paths and in parking lots. Why is it so useful?
- Are there any downsides to manufacturing and using asphalt?
  
- Plants generate pressure in their cells. How does this help them grow through soil, or denser materials such as asphalt?



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