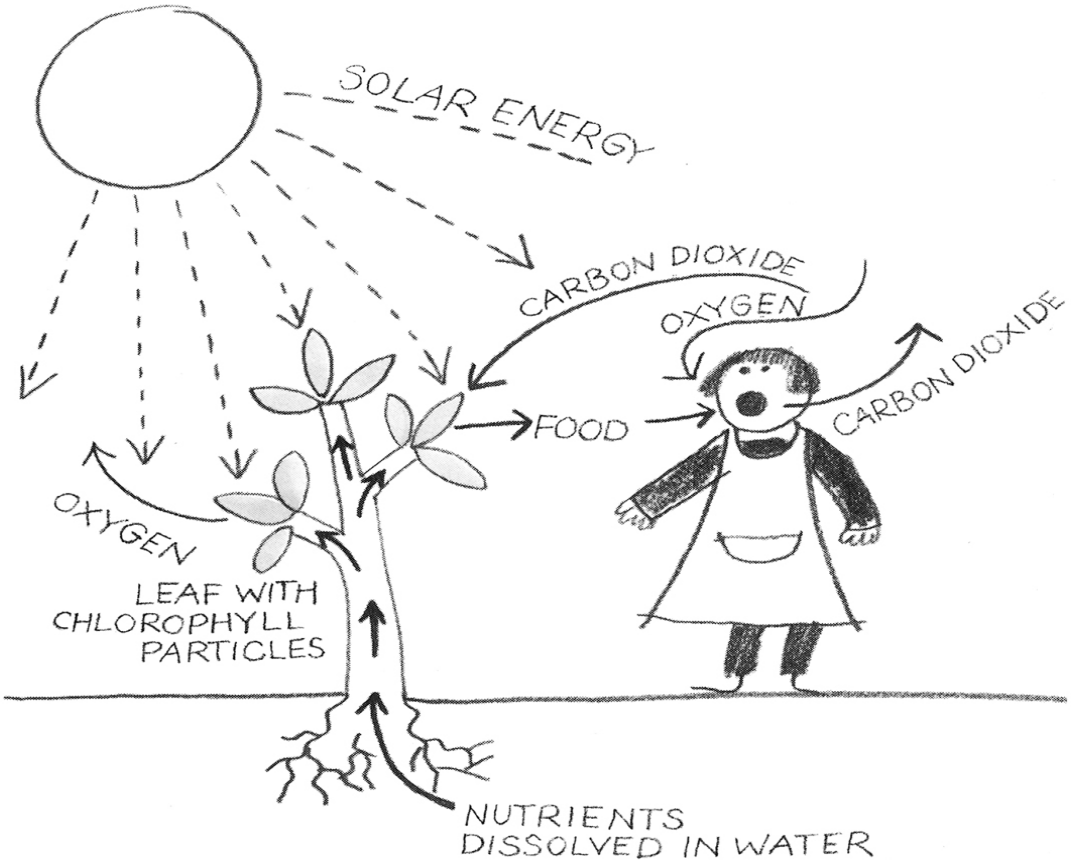
What do plants need

Excerpt from book "*Linnea's Windowsill Garden*" by Cristina Bjork

Do my plants live ONLY on the water I give them? Or do they EAT the soil? I'd better ask Mr. Bloom.

"Plants don't eat the soil itself," says Mr. Bloom. "What they eat are the nutrients in the soil, which are dissolved in water.

"Nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, iron, and calcium are some of the nutrients that plants need. When your plants suck up the water you give them, they are also absorbing these nutrients."