

Re: Dumb Question (optical properties of plants)

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.optics/2008-05/msg00035.html>

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- *From:* "Carl G." <[cginnowzerozeroone@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:cginnowzerozeroone@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 13 May 2008 15:51:35 -0700
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"Carl G." <[cginnowzerozeroone@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:cginnowzerozeroone@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:NVoWj.4\\$8g.0@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:NVoWj.4$8g.0@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

<[nospam@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:nospam@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:m\\_idnV68t8iDQ7TVRVn\\_vwA@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:m_idnV68t8iDQ7TVRVn_vwA@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Where is the best place to ask questions about which light wavelengths/colors are used by plants to photosynthesize and which are wasted? It really isn't an optics question, but I didn't see any biology group that looks right either...

The wavelengths depend on the photosynthetic pigment. See:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photosynthetic\\_pigment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photosynthetic_pigment)

Click on the pigment links (e.g., chlorophyll a) under the Plants heading to get more information about a particular pigment.

There is a picture of the absorptance spectra for chlorophyll a and b near the spectrophotometry heading at:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photosynthetic\\_pigment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photosynthetic_pigment) (look about 3/4 down the page).

Carl G.

Oops, pasted the wrong link for the chlorophyll spectra. It should have been:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chlorophyll>

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