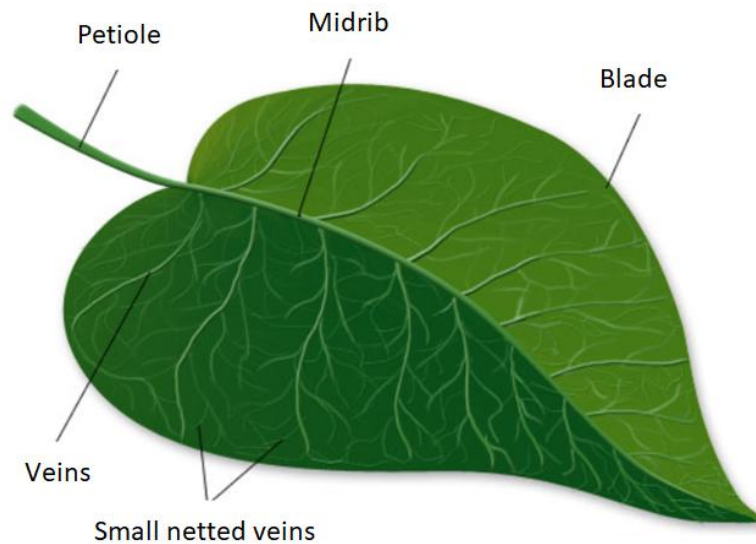


Structure of a Leaf



Leaves are thin, flat organs responsible for photosynthesis in the plants. It develops laterally at the node. It is an important part of the shoot system. Generally leaf base, petiole and lamina together form the main parts of a leaf. Almost all the leaves have broad and flat surface. There is a main vein running through the middle of the leaf. This main vein is called the midrib .



Water and minerals reach the leaf through this vein and it also carries food prepared by the leaf to different parts of the plant. In the leaf, there is a substance called chlorophyll which is the reason for the green color of the leaves.

Chlorophyll absorbs sun's energy, to prepare food. In the lower surface of the leaf, there are very tiny pores called the stomata. During photosynthesis leaf takes in carbon dioxide and gives out oxygen and water vapor, through the stomata.