

# Metabolites

Metabolites are biomolecules, which are either intermediates or products of the metabolism in the plants. It may be primary or secondary metabolites

## Biosynthetic Pathways of Primary Metabolites and Secondary Metabolites

### Difference between Primary Metabolites and Secondary Metabolites

Primary Metabolites	Secondary Metabolites
The metabolites which are required for the growth and maintenance of cellular function are called <b>primary metabolites</b>	Secondary metabolites do not play a role in growth, development, or reproduction. However, they play a role in ecological functions like defense mechanisms, serve as antibiotics, and produce pigments.
Primary metabolites are compounds that are directly involved in the growth and development of a plant	They also indirectly support the cell, in sustaining their life for long duration.
Produced in large quantity and extraction is easy	Produced in small quantity and extraction is difficult
Primary metabolites are a part of the basic molecular structure of an organism.	Secondary metabolites are not a part of the basic molecular structure of an organism.
Ex. vitamins, amino acids, nucleosides and organic acids	Ex. alkaloids, Glycosides, steroids, antibiotics, toxins