

Why do some Plants have Other Pigments than Chlorophyll?

Chlorophyll plays a very crucial and vital role for photosynthesis. It absorbs wavelengths of light to drive glucose-generating processes within plants. Aside from chlorophyll, other pigments such as carotenoids and anthocyanins are also produced. These pigments are not so important for photosynthesis. What do they serve for plants? In a study, the amount of carotenoids in *Populus parviflora*, *P. major*, *R. vesicarius* and *S. erysimoides* increased in response to exposure to UV radiation. Furthermore, reduction in the amount of chlorophyll b is less affected by extensive UV exposure than chlorophyll a. It is being hypothesized that an increase in carotenoids and pigments other than chlorophyll could protect plants from UV-induced damage.