

Fruit

Classification of fruits

Consistent with the three modes of fruit development plant scientists have classified fruits into three main groups: simple fruits, aggregate fruits, and multiple (or composite) fruits.^[14] The groupings reflect how the ovary and other flower organs are arranged and how the fruits develop, but they are not evolutionarily relevant as diverse plant [taxa](#) may be in the same group.

While the section of a [fungus](#) that produces [spores](#) is called a *fruiting* body,^[15] fungi are members of the [fungi kingdom](#) and not of the [plant kingdom](#).

Simple fruits

Simple fruits are the result of the ripening-to-fruit of a simple or compound ovary in a *single flower* with a *single* [pistil](#). In contrast, a single flower with numerous pistils typically produces an [aggregate fruit](#); and the merging of several flowers, or a 'multiple' of flowers, results in a 'multiple' fruit.^[16] A simple fruit is further classified as to whether it is dry or fleshy.

To distribute their seeds, dry fruits may split open and discharge their seeds to the winds, which is called [dehiscence](#).^[17] Or the distribution process may rely upon the decay and degradation of the fruit to expose the seeds; or it may rely upon the eating of fruit and excreting of seeds by [frugivores](#) – both are called [indehiscence](#). Fleshy fruits do not split open, but they also are indehiscent and they may also rely on frugivores for distribution of their seeds. Typically, the entire outer layer of the ovary wall ripens into a potentially edible [pericarp](#).