

Fruits: Definition and Types

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Definition of Fruit

- • A fruit is a mature or ripened ovary, developed after fertilization, usually containing seeds.
- • Fruits protect seeds and aid in their dispersal.
- • In some cases (parthenocarpic fruits), fruits develop without fertilization (e.g., banana).

Broad Classification of Fruits

- Fruits are classified into three main types based on their origin and development:
- 1. Simple Fruits
- 2. Aggregate Fruits
- 3. Multiple or Composite Fruits

Simple Fruits

- • Develop from a single ovary of a single flower.
- Types:
 - 1. Dry Simple Fruits: Dehiscent (e.g., pea, mustard) and Indehiscent (e.g., sunflower, maize).
 - 2. Fleshy Simple Fruits: Berry (e.g., tomato), Drupe (e.g., mango), Pome (e.g., apple).

Aggregate Fruits

- • Develop from multiple ovaries of a single flower (apocarpous gynoecium).
- • Each ovary develops into a small fruitlet; all fruitlets form an aggregate fruit.
- • Examples: Strawberry, raspberry, custard apple.

Multiple or Composite Fruits

- • Develop from the ovaries of multiple flowers (inflorescence).
- • Flowers contribute to a single mass of fruit.
- • Examples: Pineapple (sorosis), fig (syconus), mulberry.

Summary

- • Fruits are ripened ovaries, protecting seeds and aiding dispersal.
- • Classified into Simple, Aggregate, and Multiple types.
- • Each type has unique developmental origins and examples.