Allelopathy Encyclopedia Article

Allelopathy

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Allelopathy

Derived from the Greek words *allelo* (other) and *pathy* (causing injury to), allelopathy is a form of **competition** among plants. One plant produces and releases a chemical into the surrounding **soil** that inhibits the germination or growth of other **species** in the immediate area. These chemical substances are both acids and bases and are called secondary compounds. For example, black walnut (*Jugans nigra*) trees release a chemical called juglone that prevents other plants such as tomatoes from growing in the immediate area around each tree. In this way, plants such as black walnut reduce competition for space, nutrients, water, and sunlight.