



Resource 2

Diagram of pulse plant nitrogen-fixing



1. Tiny soil bacteria - called rhizobia, have a special relationship with pulse plants.

2. Pulse plants have special roots that provide 'homes' for rhizobia bacteria. These 'homes' look like little lumps on pulse roots. In these homes, the pulse plant provides sugars and other nutrients to the bacteria.

3. In these homes, the rhizobia draw nitrogen from the air and share it with the pulse plant. Pulse plants could not do this without the bacteria.

DECOMPOSITION

NITROGEN

4. When the pulse plant dies its roots release back the stored nitrogen into the soil making it available to help other plants grow