

SUPER SEAGRASS: WHY ARE SEAGRASS ECOSYSTEMS SO IMPORTANT?

Nutrients

Seagrass absorbs nutrients from the water and seabed. The nutrients in the seagrass can then be consumed by animals or recycled by microbes like bacteria.

Fisheries

Fishers benefit because seagrass is a nursery habitat for many commercially important fish species

Food source

Endangered green sea turtles can eat 2kg of seagrass per day.

Diseases

Seagrass meadows remove bacteria deadly to corals and other marine animals, including the fish we consume.

Water quality and clarity

Seagrass roots trap sediments and pollutants, preventing them from reaching coral reefs and improving water clarity.

Oxygen

One hectare (2.5 football fields) of seagrass can produce 100,000 liters of oxygen a day through photosynthesis.

Nursery habitats

Seagrass meadows provide shelter for thousands of juvenile fish and invertebrates, including snappers, parrotfish, sharks, crabs, seahorses and more.

Coastal protection

Seagrass reduces wave energy and prevents beach erosion.

Carbon storage

Seagrass ecosystems can lock away carbon 15 times faster than tropical rainforests.

Most of the carbon is stored in the seagrass roots and sediments below.

