

Cloze text:

The term seagrass is used for a variety of plants that grow in the _____. These differ from algae in that they form roots, shoots and flowers. As seagrasses need _____ to grow, they are usually only found in clear, shallow waters off the coast.

Seagrass meadows are an important _____ for various algae, plants, small and larger animals. The underwater thickets offer protection from _____ and are therefore often used as spawning grounds and nurseries. There are often many more _____ living in the seagrass meadow than in the surrounding area.

In addition, seagrass, like all _____, binds the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO₂). It uses this to produce oxygen and new leaves. Some of these are carried into the _____ sea by the current. Seagrass therefore serves as a _____ not only for the inhabitants of seagrass meadows, but also for animals in the open sea.

But seagrass meadows also have another important function. Due to their dense growth, they _____ the speed of the water. This allows _____ to be deposited between their roots. Over time, this leads to _____ forming in the seagrass meadows. The water then flows through the gaps. This slows down the waves and protects the coast from _____. They have a similar effect on land. Tangles of dead seaweed collect on the _____, in which sand gets caught. This allows new _____ to form.

species sediment deeper flooding sunlight beach plants
sea dunes food source hills habitat reduce predators