# Types of Plant Stems

Stems come in different shapes and sizes!

## 1. Woody Stems



These stems are hard, strong and usually brown.

**Examples:** Mango and Guava trees

## 2. Non-Woody or Herbaceous Stems



These stems are usually soft, green and flexible.

**Examples:** Balsam and Water grass

## 3. Twining Stems



These stems twist around a pole, stick or other support.

**Example:** Bodi plant

## 4. Climbing Stems



These stems grow upwards with the help of support. Some use tendrils.

**Examples:** Karaille and Passion fruit

## 5. Creeping Stems



These stems grow along the ground.

**Example:** Pumpkin

## 6. Hollow Stems



These stems have an empty space or hole in the middle.

**Examples:** Bamboo and some grasses

## 7. Underground Stems



These stems grow beneath the soil. They may store food.

**Examples:** Ginger and Arrowroot

## 8. False Stems (Pseudostems)



These look like stems but are made from tightly rolled leaf bases.

**Examples:** Banana and Dasheen

### Functions of a Stem

- Supports leaves, flowers and fruits.
- Carries water and minerals.
- Transports food.
- Stores food.
- Helps some plants produce new plants.

### Important Facts to Remember!

- Ginger is an underground stem, not a root.
- The banana plant has a false stem.
- Tendrils help climbing plants to attach.
- Mango and guava trees have woody stems.

*Stems may look different, but they all help the plant grow and survive!*

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