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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