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Structure of Algal Cell

It has an eukaryotic plant cell structure. The cytoplasm contains membrane bound chloroplast, mitochondria, ER, Golgi bodies and other cell organelles. The cell wall contains cellulose. The nucleus contains nuclear membrane.

Food Material

Algae have main food reserve as starch. In brown algae, mannitol and laminarin are the main reserve food material, whereas in red algae floridean starch is the reserve food material.

Reproduction

The algae reproduces vegetatively, asexually and sexually.

i. Vegetative Reproduction

It occurs by fragmentation, tubers, stolons, adventitious branches, etc. Each fragment gets develop into a thallus.

ii. Asexual Reproduction

It occurs by a number of accessory spores, such as zoospores aplanospores, akinetes, carpospores, etc.

The most common being the zoospores, which are flagellated. The cells which produce spores are called sporangia. The sporangia may be the vegetative cells (e.g. in Chlamydomonas and Ulothrix) or modified vegetative cells (e.g. in Vaucheria).