

Differentiate, distinguish, compare and explain what is the main difference between C<sub>3</sub> and C<sub>4</sub> pathway. Comparison and Differences.

## **Difference between C<sub>3</sub> and C<sub>4</sub> pathway**

1. In C<sub>3</sub> pathway, ribulose biphosphate is the first acceptor of CO<sub>2</sub>. In C<sub>4</sub> pathway, phosphoenol pyruvate is the first acceptor of CO<sub>2</sub>, while ribulose biphosphate is the second acceptor.
2. In C<sub>3</sub> pathway, Phosphoglyceric acid is the first product. Oxaloacetic acid is the first product in C<sub>4</sub> pathway.
3. The plants operate only Calvin cycle in C<sub>3</sub> whereas plants operate a dicarboxylic acid cycle in addition to Calvin cycle in C<sub>4</sub> pathway.
4. In C<sub>3</sub> pathway, CO<sub>2</sub> compensation point is 25 ± 100 ppm whereas CO<sub>2</sub> compensation point is 0 ± 10 ppm in C<sub>4</sub>.
5. Mesophyll cells perform complete photosynthesis in C<sub>3</sub> pathway. Mesophyll cells perform only initial fixation in C<sub>4</sub> pathway.

Steady Run