

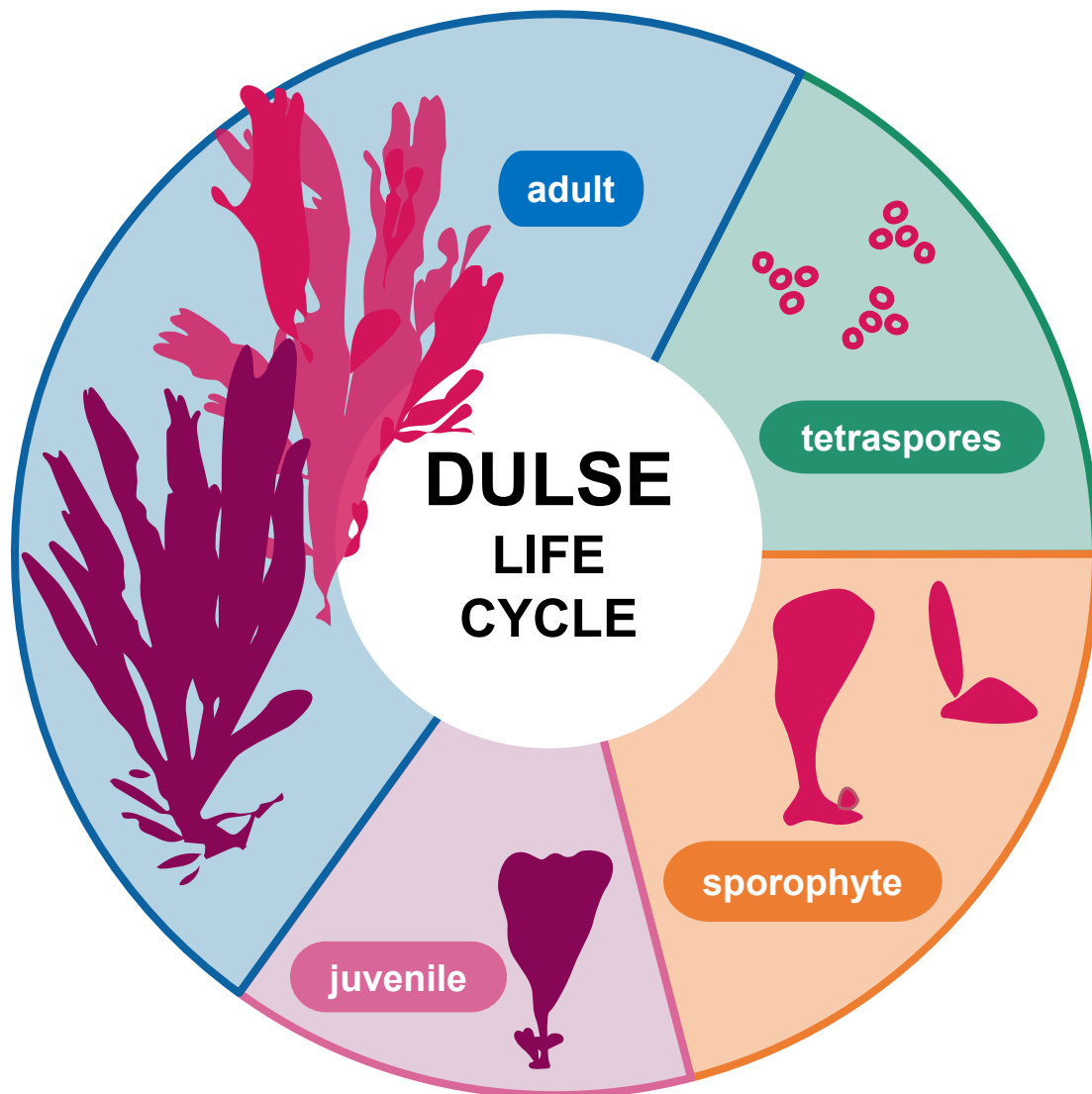
# Seaweed Life Cycle

K'áach (dulse) is a perennial (a plant or seaweed that lives more than two years) that can regrow new blades every year from the same holdfast. The maximum life span of individual blades or holdfasts is unknown other than they can persist through the winter.

The **life history** of **dulse** is unique in that females from each generation are reproductive their first year but males aren't reproductive until their second year.

After tetraspores (specialized reproductive cells) are released, they quickly adhere to any suitable substrate (rock, shell, or kelp stipes). The tetraspores then develop into male and female individuals which when combined create a sporophyte (spore producing individual).

Dulse can also reproduce asexually, by fragmentation — that is, the blades shed small pieces that develop into completely independent organisms!



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