

Plant Glossary

Abaxial	Said of a surface facing away from the axis of the structure to which it is attached.
Abortive	Defective; barren; not developed.
Abscission	A clean-cut scar or separating of a leaf from a self-healing.
Acaulescent	Stemless, or apparently so.
Achene	A hard, one-seeded, indehiscent nutlet with a tight pericarp.
Acicular	Needle-like.
Acorn	The specialized fruit of members of the genus Quercus (oaks) that is composed of a nut with a cap of overlapping rows of scales
Actinomorphic	Radially symmetrical; capable of being bisected into two or more similar planes. Same as regular
Acuminate	Tapering to a slender tip.
Acute	Sharp-pointed.
Adaxial	Said of a surface facing toward the axis of the structure to which it is attached.
Adherent	Joined to a dissimilar plant part. Compare coherent.
Adnate	Same as adherent.
Adventitious	Sprouting or growing from unusual or abnormal places, such as roots originating from a stem, or buds appearing about wounds.
Aerial	Said of structures originating above ground.
Aggregated	Crowded together.
Allopatric	Occupying different, though sometimes adjacent, regions.
Alluvium	Sands, silts, et cetera deposited by gradually moving water.
Alternate	One after the other along an axis; not opposite.
Ament	A dry, usually elongate often drooping, scaly spike bearing imperfect flowers; a catkin. A frequent feature of woody plants.
Anastomose	To interconnect, such as the veins of a leaf.
Anastomosing	Connecting and intersecting, forming a network.
Androecium	The staminate portions of the flower. Compare with gynoecium.
Androgynous	With staminate flowers situated above the pistillate ones in the same inflorescence.
Angiosperm	Flowering plant producing seeds enclosed in a structure derived from the ovary.
Angulate	Having angles.
Annual	A plant which completes its life cycle in one year or less.
Annulus	Tissue forming a ring or arranged in a circle.
Anterior	On the side away from the main stem; abaxial.
Anther	The pollen-bearing portion of the stamen.
Anthesis	Time of the year during which the anthers are dehiscing and the stigmas are receptive to pollen; in a looser sense, the time of flowering.
Antrorse	Directed forward or upward.
Aparinaceous	Scratchy; clingy.
Apetalous	Having no petals.
Apex	The tip; end.

Apical	Pertaining to the apex.
Apiculate	Abruptly short-pointed.
Apiculus	Abruptly short-beaked or pointed.
Appressed	Lying flat against a surface.
Aquatic	A plant which carries out its life cycle in water.
Arachnoid	Cobweb-like.
Arcuate	Arching.
Areola	A small space on or near the surface of some vegetative organ, usually formed by anastomosing veins.
Areolae	The spaces between the veins of a leaf or some similar structure.
Aril	An appendage growing out from a seed.
Arillate	Having an aril.
Aristate	Awned; tipped by a stiff bristle.
Aromatic	Having a fragrant smell, sometimes only if broken or crushed.
Article	Section of a legume pod, separated from other sections by a constriction or partition.
Articulation	A joint.
Ascending	Growing or directed in an upward direction, or at least tending to.
Asymmetrical	Unequally developed on either side of a common axis. Opposite of symmetrical.
Atom	Small, usually resinous, dot or gland.
Atomate	Having small, usually resinous, dots or glands.
Attenuate	Gradually tapered to a slender tip.
Auricle	An ear-shaped appendage or lobe (such often being quite small).
Auriculate	With an ear-shaped flange or lobe.
Autecology	Pertaining to the ecology of an individual species.
Awn	A stiff bristle, usually situated at the tip of a leaf or perianth element, or (in grasses), at the tip of a glume or lemma.
Axil	The area or angle formed between the base of an organ and the structure from which it originated. Such as the upper angle between the leaf base and the stem.
Axillary	Pertaining to the axil.
Axis	The central part of a longitudinal support (usually of a stem or inflorescence) on which organs or parts are arranged.
Barbellate	Beset with fine barbs.
Barren	Land with sparse vegetation, often with bedrock at or very near the surface (especially in mountainous states, often populated with scrubby pines).
Basal	Pertaining to the base of the plant or some organ of the plant.
Basifixed	Attached by the base.
Beak	A slender terminal process, usually abruptly differentiated from the general outline of the organ from which it originates; usually applied to fruits and pistils.
Berry	A usually fleshy or pulpy fruit, typically with two or more seeds developed from a single ovary.
Biconvex	Convex on both surfaces.
Bidentate	Having two teeth.
Biennial	A plant which requires two years to complete a life cycle, the first year typically forming a rosette, the second year forming an inflorescence.

Bifid	Cleft into two parts, usually at the summit of some organ.
Bilabiate	Two-lipped; most often applied to zygomorphic perianths.
Bilateral	Having two equal sides on either side of an axis.
Bilaterally symmetrical	Referring to a calyx or corolla that is zygomorphic, capable of being divided into two equal halves along one plane only.
Bilobed	Having two lobes.
Bipinnate	Twice pinnately compound.
Bipinnatifid	Twice pinnatifid.
Biternate	Twice ternate; when the divisions of a ternate leaf are divided into three.
Bivalved	Having two sides or units originating at a common point.
Bladder	An inflated sac or receptacle containing a fluid.
Blade	The expanded portion of a foliar or floral organ.
Bloom	A whitish powdery covering of the surface, often of a waxy nature.
Blunt	Obtuse, round-tipped.
Bog	A wetland, usually peaty, in which the substrate is typically acid.
Bole	A strong unbranched caudex; the trunk of a tree.
Boreal	Northern.
Bract	A reduced leaf or scale, typically one which subtends a pedicel or inflorescence, but it also can refer to minute leaves on a stem.
Bracteal	Pertaining to a bract.
Bracteate	Having bracts.
Bracteole	A small bract, typically that which subtends a flower, the pedicel of which is already subtended by a bract.
Bractlet	A secondary bract, as one upon the pedicel of a flower.
Branchlet	A division of a branch, smaller than the main branch.
Bristle	Stiff hair or trichome.
Bristly	With bristles.
Bronzing	Referring especially to the color of foliage after a winter; usually a metallic bronze or coppery color.
Bud	Very young developing tissue enclosed in scales or valves.
Bulb	A short, often subglobose, stem surrounded by scales or modified leaves, typically underground.
Bulbil	A small, usually axillary bulb-like organ.
Bulblet	A small bulbiform organ, particularly one proliferating from a leaf axil or sterile flower.
Bulbous	Having the character of a bulb.
Bullate	Blistered or puckered.
Bur	A spiny or prickly, usually dry, fruit or cluster of fruits.
Caducous	Falling off early or prematurely; deciduous.
Caespitose	See caespitose.
Calcareous	Limy; as in water or soil made basic by a prevailing amount of calcium ions.
Calciphilous	Lime-loving.
Callosity	A hardened thickening.
Callous	Having the texture of a callus.

Callus	A hard protuberance or callosity; often (in grasses) the swelling at the base or joint of insertion of the lemma or palea.
Calyx	The outer, usually green, series of perianth parts; the sepals taken collectively.
Cambium	Thin layer of meristematic cells, typically that which gives rise to secondary xylem or phloem.
Campanulate	Bell-shaped or cup-shaped, typically with a flared or enhanced rim.
Canaliculate	Having a groove or channel.
Cancellate	Having a net-like or sculptured surface.
Cane	The elongated new shoot of shrubs, such as in Rubus.
Canescent	Densely beset with matted, often grayish-pubescent, hairs.
Capillary	Hair-like.
Capitate	Head-like; very densely clustered.
Capitulum	A small head of flowers.
Capsule	A dry dehiscent fruit composed of two or more carpels.
Carinate	Keeled.
Carpel	A pistil, or one of the units of a compound pistil.
Carpellate	Having carpels.
Cartilaginous	Cartilage-like; firm and tough but neither rigid nor bony.
Caryopsis	In grasses, a seed-like fruit with a thin pericarp; a grain.
Catkin	Same as ament.
Caudate	Tail-like, or bearing a tail-like appendage.
Caudex	The ligneous or woody base of a perennial plant.
Caulescent	Having an above-ground stem.
Cauline	Pertaining to the stem or features of the stem.
Cespitose	Tufted, usually referring to the compact arrangement of the stem bases with respect to each other and their position in the soil; sometimes spelled caespitose.
Chaff	Dry, scaly, often small, bracts; typically referring to those scales subtending the individual flowers in composite heads.
Chalaza	The basal part of an ovule where it is attached to the funiculus.
Chambered	Areas in the hollow pith of twigs where vertical walls occur at close intervals.
Chartaceous	Thin, but firm; resembling the more ancient writing paper.
Chink	A modified pore, usually involving an opening in the anther.
Chlorophyll	The green photosynthetic pigment.
Cilia	Hairs or slender bristles confined to the margins of some organ.
Ciliate	Fringed with cilia; bearing cilia on the margins.
Ciliolate	Minutely ciliate.
Ciliolate	Minutely ciliolate.
Cinereous	Ash-gray colored.
Circinate	Rolled coilwise from the top downward, as in unopened fern fronds.
Circumscissile	Pertaining to the dehiscence of a capsule (pyxis) which opens by a circular, horizontal line, the top usually coming off as a lid.

Clammy	Sticky-hairy.
Clasping	Tending to encircle or invest, as in the base of a leaf which forms partly around the stem to which it is attached.
Clavate	Club-shaped; dilated upwards.
Claw	The narrowed base or stalk of some petals.
Cleft	Distinctly divided or incised, usually to about the middle.
Cleistogamous	Fertilized in the bud, without the opening of the flower.
Clone	A group of individuals, resulting from vegetative multiplication; any plant propagated vegetatively and therefore, presumably a duplicate of its parent.
Coarse	Rough.
Column	Sheath or structure formed by the uniting of stamens around the pistil.
Columnar	Shaped like a column or pillar.
Coma	A dense tuft of hairs, often resembling a beard, attached to a seed.
Comose	Bearded, with a coma.
Compound	Pertaining to leaves which are divided into distinct leaflets.
Compressed	Strongly flattened, especially laterally.
Concave	Hollow; in the context of the interior of a curved surface; opposite of convex.
Concentric	Two or more circles having a center in common.
Conduplicate	Folded together lengthwise.
Cone	Three-dimensional object with a circular base, the sides all tapering to a point at the summit; the fruit of pines and their relatives; spore case of Equisetum. Compare strobile.
Conical	Cone-shaped.
Coniferous	Cone-bearing.
Connate	Fused or united to a similar plant part. Compare adnate.
Connective	The part of the stamen which connects the two parts of an anther.
Connivent	Coming together; meeting at a common point but not fused.
Conspecific	Said of two or more taxa belonging to the same species.
Contracted	Abruptly narrowed or reduced.
Convex	Curved or rounded, as the exterior of a circular form viewed from without; opposite of concave.
Convolute	Rolled up longitudinally.
Coralline	White and coral-like.
Cordate	Heart-shaped.
Coriaceous	Leather-like.
Corm	A solid, bulb-like part, usually subterranean, as the "bulb" of a crocus or gladiolus.
Cormose	Bearing corms.
Corniculate	Furnished with a little horn.
Corolla	The inner series of perianth parts, often colored; the petals taken collectively.
Corona	A short-cylindric or crown-like modification of the corolla; also, a small crown in the throat of a corolla, as in Narcissus.

Coronate	With a corona.
Corrugated	Wrinkled or folded longitudinally.
Corymb	An arrangement of the inflorescence in which stalked flowers are situated along a central axis, but with the flowers all nearly or quite attaining the same elevation with respect to each other, the oldest at the edges.
Corymbiform	Resembling a corymb.
Corymbose	Corymb-like.
Corymbulose	Resembling small corymbs.
Costate	Ribbed; having one or longitudinal nerves.
Cottony	With the consistency of cotton.
Cotyledon	A seed leaf; the first leaf (or leaves) to appear during the development of a seedling.
Crateriform	Saucer-shaped or cup-shaped (usually shallowly so).
Crenate	Very shallowly toothed with broad, blunt teeth.
Crenulate	Minutely crenate.
Crest	A ridge or strong keel, typically along one side of an achene or nutlet; also, the elevated portion of a petal, as in some Iris.
Crown	That portion of a stem at the ground surface; also, in the Asteraceae family, scales or awns at the summit of an achene.
Cruciform	Cross-shaped.
Cucullate	Hood-shaped.
Culm	The stem of grasses, sedges, and rushes.
Cultivar	A cultivated variation.
Cuneate	Wedge-shaped.
Cusp	An abrupt point or tooth.
Cuspidate	Bearing a cusp.
Cuticle	An often waxy, outer film of dead epidermal cells.
Cyathium	The cup-like involucre characteristic of the genus Euphorbia.
Cylindrical	Shaped like a cylinder.
Cyme	An often flat-topped inflorescence, the central floret of which blooms first.
Cymose	Resembling a cyme.
Cymule	A small, often compacted and usually few-flowered, cyme.
Deciduous	Pertaining to plants which shed their herbaceous tissues after one year's growth; not evergreen; caducous.
Decompond	Divided or compound more than once.
Decumbent	Trailing along the ground but with the inflorescence or summit of the stem ascending or erect.
Decurrent	Usually pertaining to some flat, foliar organ, the tissue of which continues beyond its base down an elongate axis (usually a stem or petiole).
Decussate	Opposite leaves in four rows up and down the stem; alternating in pairs at right angles.
Deflexed	Abruptly directed downward; reflexed.
Dehiscence	The opening of a fruit or anther by sutures, valves, slits, pores, etc.

Dehiscent	Said of a fruit or anther that opens by sutures, valves, slits, pores, etc.
Deltoid	Triangular.
Dentate	Toothed, the teeth perpendicular to the margin.
Denticulate	Minutely dentate.
Depauperate	Poor; with little sustenance or vigor.
Determinate	Inflorescence whose terminal flowers open first. See indeterminate.
Diadelphous	Combined into two, often unequal sets; primarily spoken of in connection with the Fabaceae family, where the flowers typically have a set of stamens consisting of nine and another consisting of only one stamen.
Diaphragm	A dividing membrane or partition, a feature of chambered pith.
Dichasium	A cyme with two lateral axes.
Dichotomous	Forking regularly in two directions.
Dicot	Angiosperm with 2 seed leaves.
Diffuse	Widely or loosely spreading.
Digitate	Typically referring to a compound leaf in which the leaflets originate from a common point at the apex of a petiole; also spoken of a flower cluster.
Dilated	Expanded or enlarged.
Dimorphic	Having two forms.
Dioecious	Pertaining to plants, individuals of which bear either staminate or pistillate flowers but not both.
Disarticulate	To separate.
Disk flowers	In the Asteraceae family, the central, tubular flowers of the head. Compare ray flower.
Disk or disc	The central portion of a capitate inflorescence, or the receptacle of such an inflorescence; also, a structure formed by the coalescence of stigmas as in the Papaveraceae family; also, the development of the receptacle at or around the base of a petals, as in Acer and Euonymus.
Dissected	Cut or divided into narrow segments.
Distal	The direction or point away from the point of attachment.
Distichous	Arranged in two vertical series; two-ranked.
Distigmatic	Bearing two stigmas.
Distinct	Separate, and usually evident.
Divaricate	Widely spreading or divergent.
Divergent	Directed away from each other.
Dorsal	Relating to the back or outer surface of an organ. Compare ventral
Downy	Covered with soft hair.
Drupe	A typically one-locular, fleshy or pulpy fruit with a hard or stony center.
Drupelet	A small drupe.
E- or Ex	Without; not.
Ebracteate	Without bracts.
Eccentric	Off center, or one-sided.

Echinate	Bearing stout, often bluntish, spines or prickles.
Eciliate	Without cilia.
Eglandular	Without glands.
Elevated	Raised, often forming a ridge.
Ellipsoid	Solid but with an elliptical outline.
Elliptic	A circular shape which has been laterally compressed, widest about the middle.
Elongate	Drawn out into a form much longer than wide.
Emarginate	With a shallow notch at the tip.
Emergent	Pertaining to aquatic plants which have some portion of the plant extended out of the water.
Emersed	Above water.
Endemic	Confined to a small geographic area.
Endosperm	In a seed, the reserve food stored around, or next to, the embryo.
Entire	Pertaining to margins without crenation, serration, or dentition; even though the margin may be variously ciliate or pubescent.
Ephemeral	Lasting for one day or less.
Epidermis	The superficial layer of cells.
Epigynous	Flower with the calyx situated on the ovary.
Equitant	Pertaining to the two-ranked arrangement of usually conduplicate leaves, overlapping in two ranks.
Erect	Upright.
Erose	Pertaining to margins which appear unevenly cut or incised, as if eroded or eaten.
Evanescent	Fading, disappearing in time.
Evergreen	Refers to having green foliage throughout the year.
Excurrent	Usually in reference to veins and nerves which run beyond the margin of the organ from which it originates; often as an awn or bristle.
Exfoliating	Loosely shedding in thin or stringy layers.
Exserted	Prolonged beyond the rim of an enveloping or confining structure.
Extrorse	Looking or facing outward.
Face	A flat side.
Falcate	Sickle-shaped; slenderly curved and tapering to a usually sharp tip.
Falls	Outer whorl or series of perianth parts of an iridaceous flower, often broader than those of the inner series and, in some Iris, drooping or flexuous.
Farinose	Resembling farina; typically used to describe the white-mealy, strongly modified hairs in the genus Chenopodium.
Fascicle	A cluster or bundle.
Fasciculate	With fascicles.
Fastigate	Usually in reference to branches which are stiffly erect; neither divaricate nor divergent.
Fen	A general term used in reference to habitats which are calcareous in nature and which are fed throughout the year by a flow of water at or just beneath the surface.

Ferruginous	Rust-colored.
Fertile	Capable of reproducing sexually.
Fetid	Having a disagreeable odor.
Fibrillose	Beset or provided with numerous fine fibers.
Fibrous	Referring usually to a much branched root system with progressively smaller branches.
Fiddlehead	Referring to the unusual circinate unrolling of fronds, in many ferns.
Filament	Anther-bearing stalk of the stamen.
Filiform	Very slender, thread-shaped; usually terete in cross section.
Fimbriate	Fringed.
Fimbriolate	With tiny fringes.
Fistulose	Hollow, often pertaining to stems with hollow centers.
Flabelliform	Fan-like.
Flaccid	Very limber, without apparent support.
Flange	A bit of projecting tissue.
Flexuous	Flexible; easily bent this way and that.
Floccose	Copiously beset with tangled woolly hairs.
Floret	A single small flower, usually a member of a cluster, such as a head; used particularly in grasses (Poaceae family) and composites (Asteraceae family).
Floriferous	Bearing flowers.
Fluted	With a parallel series of grooves.
Foliaceous	Leafy; leaf-like.
Foliate	With leaves.
Foliate	Having leaflets; often used with a prefix, such as trifoliolate.
Follicle	A dry fruit consisting of a single carpel and dehiscent along only one suture.
Forma	A infraspecific taxonomic entity, usually involving single-gene traits such as flower or fruit color.
Friable	Easily crumbled; fragile.
Fronde	The foliaceous blade of a fern leaf.
Fruit	That structure which bears the seeds.
Fruticose	Shrubby or shrub-like and also woody.
Fugacious	Falling away early.
Fulvous	Tawny.
Funnelform	Shaped approximately like a funnel; sometimes called infundibuliform.
Furcate	Forked.
Fuscous	Grayish-brown.
Fusiform	Spindle-shaped; swollen in the middle and gradually narrowed toward each end.
Galeate	Hood-like; helmet-shaped.
Geniculate	Knee-like; usually referring to the alternate, abrupt bends at the nodes of some stems; also referring to bent awns.

Genus	A group of related species, as the genus <i>Ulmus</i> (elm), the genus <i>Syringa</i> (lilac), embracing respectively all kinds of elms and all kinds of lilacs.
Gibbous	Swollen on one side; protuberant, often interrupting the radial symmetry of a structure.
Glabrate or Glabrescent	Becoming smooth.
Glabrous	Smooth, in the sense of not possessing hairs.
Gland	A general term applying to any number of small protuberances, viscid dots, or secretions.
Glandular	With glands.
Glaucouscent	Weakly glaucous.
Glaucous	Covered by a white or pale, often waxy, bloom.
Globose	Spherical; globe-like.
Globular	Circular.
Glochidiate	With minute barbed bristles.
Glomerate	Tightly clustered, usually in reference to compact clusters of short-stalked flowers.
Glomerulate	Similar to glomerate, but with smaller clusters.
Glomerule	A small, compact cluster.
Glume	The lowest two (sometimes one) empty scales subtending the usually fertile scales in grass spikelets.
Glutinous	Covered with a sticky exudation.
Grain	The fruit of most grasses; a caryopsis.
Granular	Appearing to consist of tiny grains.
Granulate	Granular.
Granulose	Granular.
Grit Cells	The hard, almost stony, cells, found in some fruits, especially pears.
Gymnosperm	Seed-bearing plant in which the ovules are borne on open scales.
Gynoecium	The pistil or collective pistils of a flower; the female portions of a flower as a whole -- the corresponding term for stamens is the androecium.
Halophilic	Preferring saline soils.
Halophyte	A plant that grows in saline soils.
Hastate	Resembling an arrowhead, particularly with respect to the lobed basal portion, which is usually at about right angles to the main portion.
Hastiform	More or less hastate.
Haustorium	In parasitic plants, a specialized outgrowth of a stem or root, serving for the absorption of food, as in the dodders.
Head	A dense, compact cluster of mostly sessile flowers. Also used to describe the inflorescence in the Asteraceae family.
Helicoid	Refers to racemes or spikes which are coiled from the tip downward with successive lateral branches arising on the same side.
Helmet	A hood-shaped organ, usually a petal, best exemplified in the genus <i>Aconitum</i> .
Herb	A non-woody, non-grass-like plant.
Herbaceous	Not woody.

Herbage	Referring to green leaves and shoots.
Hilum	The scar or point of attachment of the seed.
Hip	The unusual fruit exemplified by the genus <i>Rosa</i> .
Hirsute	Beset with stiff or stiffish, usually straight, hairs.
Hirsutulous	Slightly hirsute.
Hirtellous	Minutely hirsute.
Hispid	Coarsely hirsute or bristly-hairy.
Hispidulous	Minutely hispid.
Hoary	Pubescent with close, fine, usually grayish or whitish, hairs.
Hood	Specifically, that part of the milkweed flower in which the stamens are greatly modified into hood-like organs; in general, an organ which is arched or concave.
Horn	A incurved body often present in the hooded body of milkweed flowers.
Humifuse	Spreading over the ground.
Hummock	A small, low mound in an otherwise wet plant community.
Hyaline	Transparent or translucent.
Hybrid	The progeny of sexual reproduction between two different, recognized species.
Hydromesophytic	Referring to the wet mesophytic swamps behind the high dunes near Lake Michigan.
Hypanthium	Floral tube formed by the adnation of the sepals, petals, and stamens; most commonly tubular and simulating a calyx tube.
Hypogynium	The disk-like structure subtending the ovary in the genus <i>Scleria</i> .
Hypogynous	Flower with the calyx situated below the ovary.
Imbricate	A general term which applies under various conditions where one organ, or series of organs, overlaps another organ or series of organs; as in roof shingles.
Immaculate	Without spots. Compare with maculate.
Immersed	Growing beneath the surface of the water.
Imperfect	Pertaining to a flower in which there is but one set of sex organs; i.e., those flowers which are either strictly male or strictly female; imperfect flowers occur in both monoecious and dioecious plants.
Impressed	Sunken in; situated inferior to the surface of a blade, usually in reference to veins which are neither flush with nor raised above the surface of the blade or organ.
Incised	Deeply cut or divided, usually irregularly.
Included	Contained within, usually in reference to stamens, pistils, or capsules which do not surpass or exceed the calyx or corolla in length.
Incurved	Curled or directed inward, such as hairs, the tips of which curve back toward the stem or surface of an organ.
Indehiscent	Not opening at maturity; a term generally referring to some fruits.
Indeterminate	Inflorescence whose terminal flowers open last. See determinate.
Indument	Hairy or pubescent, usually rather heavy, covering.
Indurated	Hardened.
Indusium	A delicate flap or covering connected to the sorus in ferns.
Inferior	In reference to an organ which appears subordinate to or lower than another similar organ; in reference to an ovary, at least the sides of which are adnate to

	the hypanthium.
Infertile	Sterile; unable to produce seeds.
Inflated	Blown up or dilated as if by air; bladder-like.
Inflexed	Bent inward.
Inflorescence	The discrete flowering portion or portions of a plant; a flower cluster.
Infra-	Prefix meaning beneath, or less than, or within. Opposite of supra-.
Infraspecific	Pertaining to any taxon within a species, such as a subspecies, variety, or form. Compare to interspecific and intraspecific.
Infructescence	The fruiting inflorescence.
Inrolled	Said of leaf margins rolled inward toward the midrib.
Inspid	Without taste or flavor.
Inter-	Prefix meaning between, or among.
Internode	That portion of the stem other than the node; the distance between two nodes.
Interspecific	Among species or between two species. Compare to infraspecific and intraspecific.
Interstitial	That space which is between or among two or more discriminate structures; in the Rosaceae family, referring to the small leaflets between two large leaflets on the rachis.
Intra-	Prefix meaning within.
Intraspecific	Referring to a taxonomic entity with a species. Compare to infraspecific and interspecific.
Intrastaminal	Among the stamens.
Introrse	Turned inward or toward the axis.
Invaginated	Sunken inwardly; used in connection with the achene in Carex.
Involucel	A secondary involucre, such as that subtending an umbellet in the Apiaceae family.
Involucral	Pertaining to an involucre.
Involucrate	Having an involucre.
Involucre	A whorl or imbricated series of bracts, often appearing somewhat calyx-like, typically subtending a flower cluster or a solitary flower.
Involute	Leaf margins rolled toward the upper surface of the midrib.
Irregular	Referring to a calyx or corolla which is bilaterally symmetrical, capable of being divided into two equal halves along only one plane. Same as zygomorphic.
Isodiametric	Shapes with sides or diameters of nearly equal lengths.
Jointed	With nodes, or points of real or apparent articulation.
Keel	A longitudinal fold or ridge; in the Fabaceae family, the two anterior united petals of a papilionaceous flower -- a flower shaped like a sweet pea blossom.
Lacerate	Unevenly cut or incised.
Lacinate	Deeply and sharply slashed into slender segments.
Lacuna	Defined space.
Lamellae	Thin flat plates or laterally flattened ridges.
Lamina	Blade, usually of a leaf.
Lanate	Densely white woolly-pubescent.

Lanceolate	Lance-shaped, broadest below the middle, long-tapering above the middle, several times longer than wide. See oblanceolate
Lanuginose	Woolly or cottony; downy, the hairs somewhat shorter than in lanate.
Lanulose	Very short-woolly.
Lateral	Pertaining to the sides.
Latex	The milky juice (or highly colored juice) of some plants.
Lax	General term meaning open, loose, without clear form or shape, or scattered, depending on the context.
Leaf	Usually a blade-like organ attached to the stem, often by a petiole or sheath, and commonly functioning as a principal organ in photosynthesis and transpiration. Leaves characteristically subtend buds and extend from the stem in various planes. See also leaflet. A leaf axil is the upper angle between a leaf petiole, or sessile leaf base, and the node from which it grows. A leaf scar is formed on a twig following the fall of a leaf, usually revealing the pattern of vascular bundles in the leaf trace.
Leaflet	One of the discriminate segments of the compound leaf of a dicotyledonous plant. Leaflets may resemble leaves, but differ principally in that buds are not found in the axils of leaflets, and that leaflets all lie in the same plane.
Legume	The fruit in the Fabaceae family, produced from a one-celled ovary, and typically splitting along both sutures; as in the pea pod.
Lemma	The lowermost of the two scales forming the floret in a grass spikelet -- the uppermost, less easily seen, is called the palea.
Lenticel	A corky spot on young bark, corresponding functionally to a stoma on a leaf.
Lenticular	Lens-shaped; two-sided, with the faces convex.
Lepidote	Surfaced with small scurfy scales.
Ligneous	Woody.
Ligulate	Bearing a ligule.
Ligule	In the Asteraceae family, pertaining to the dilated or flattened, spreading limb of the composite ray flower; in other families, such as Poaceae family, an extension, often scarious, of the summit of the leaf sheath.
Limb	The expanded portion of a corolla above the throat; the expanded portion of any petal.
Linear	Very long and narrow, with nearly or quite parallel margins.
Lip	Referring to either the upper or lower lip of a bilabiate corolla; the principal, seemingly lower, petal in the Orchidaceae.
Lobe	Any segment or division, particularly if blunt.
Lobulate	Bearing lobes.
Locular	Having locules.
Locule	A discriminate cavity or space within an ovary, fruit, or anther.
Loculicidal	Pertaining to a capsule which dehisces along the dorsal suture of each locule, thus opening directly into the cavity.
Locus	Place.
Loment	Specifically applied to the series of one-seeded articles of a fruit in the genus Desmodium.
Longiligulate	With long ligules.
Lustrous	Shiny.

Lyrate	Pinnately lobed into large, broad lobes, the terminal one typically noticeably larger than the reduced lateral ones.
Maculate	Spotted. Compare with immaculate.
Malodorous	Foul-smelling.
Malpighian	Spoken of hairs which are straight and attached by the middle, and typically appressed to the leaf surface.
Marcrescent	Withering but persistent, usually remaining green.
Margin	Edge.
Marine	Referring to an aquatic habitat in salt water.
Marly	Very limy, often with calcium carbonate concretions at or near the surface.
Mealy	See farinose.
Megaspore	The larger type of haploid spore (when two sizes are present) which gives rise to the female gametophyte; the other called a microspore.
Membranaceous	Membrane-like; very thin, flimsy, and often more or less translucent.
Mericarp	The discriminate units of a schizocarp which ultimately splits apart into two individual nutlets, usually referring to units of the fruits of the parsley family.
Mesic	A microclimatic term which refers to an area in which the soils are usually well drained, but contain a lot of moisture for all or much of the year; such areas typically occur on north or east-facing exposures. Compare to xeric.
Mesophytic	Refers to plant species or plant communities which grow under mesic conditions.
Microspore	Haploid spore which gives rise to the male gametophyte; other being called megaspore.
Midnerve, Midrib, Midvein	The central or principal vein of a foliar or bracteal organ, or of a sepal or petal.
Milky	Like a thick white juice.
Minerotrophic	Rich in calcium and magnesium carbonate.
Monadelphous	Spoken of stamens united by their filaments into a tube or column.
Moniliform	Appearing as a string of beads.
Moniliform	Resembling a string of beads; cylindrical, with contractions at regular intervals.
Monocot	Angiospermous plant having only one cotyledon.
Monoecious	Pertaining to plants, individuals of which bear both staminate and pistillate flowers but not perfect flowers.
Mottled	Covered in part with spots, areas, or lines of different color than the main surface.
Mucro	A short and small abrupt tip.
Mucronate	With a short, abrupt tip.
Mucronulate	Minutely mucronate.
Multifid	Cleft into many lobes or segments.
Muricate	Copiously beset with hard, often sharp, tubercles.
Native	Inherent and original to an area.
Nectar	A sweet substance typically produced by flowers which are insect-pollinated.
Nerve	Same as a vein.
Neutral	Spoken of a flower which has neither stamens or pistils.

Nigrescent	Becoming black or blackish.
Nodding	Hanging on a bent peduncle or pedicels.
Node	The point along a stem which gives rise to leaves, branches, or inflorescences.
Nodose	Knotty or knobby.
Nodulose	Provided with little knots or knobs.
Nut	A hard, indehiscent, one-seeded, fruit, typically with an outer shell.
Nutlet	A small nut or achene, typically 1-seeded, usually lacking a specific outer shell.
Obconic	Inversely conical.
Obcordate	Referring to leaves or petals which are heart-shaped at the tip and tapering to a wedge-shaped base.
Oblanceolate	Several times longer than wide, but widest above the middle, long-tapering at the base.
Oblique	Slanting, or unequal-sided.
Oblong	Several times longer than wide with nearly or quite parallel sides.
Obovate	Inversely ovate.
Obovoid	Having the form of an egg, but with the broad end at the tip.
Obsolete	Rudimentary; not evident.
Obtuse	Blunt or rounded.
Ochroleucous	Yellowish white.
Ocrea	In the Polygonaceae, refers to the tubular sheathing stipules along the stem.
Ocreola	In the Polygonaceae, a secondary ocrea, usually referring to those of the inflorescence.
Olivaceous	Having an olive-green color.
Opaque	Dull; neither shining nor translucent.
Opposite	Arranged in pairs along an axis, not alternate.
Orbicular	Circular in outline.
Osier	A long, lithe stem.
Oval	Broadly elliptical.
Ovary	That portion of the pistil which contains the ovules.
Ovate	Egg-shaped.
Ovoid	A solid with an ovate outline.
Ovule	The body which, after fertilization, becomes the seed.
Palate	A rounded projection of the lower lip of some irregular corollas, often closing the throat, as in Utricularia.
Palea	The uppermost of the two scales forming the floret in a grass spikelet (often obscure).
Palmate	Radiately lobed or divided, the axes of the individual segments originating at a common point or nearly so.
Paludal	Pertaining to marshes.
Pandurate	Fiddle-shaped.
Panicle	An inflorescence composed of two or more racemes or racemiform corymbs.

Paniculate	Bearing panicles
Paniculiform	Panicle shaped.
Pannate, Pannose	With a tight, densely tangled tomentum; Appearing felt-like.
Panne	Typically, a moist interdunal depression, often scoured down to the water table, in calcareous sands on the lee sides of dunes near Lake Michigan -- the vegetation quite fen-like in composition.
Pannose	See Pannte
Papilionaceous	Butterfly-like; in the Fabaceae family particularly, having a corolla composed of a standard, keel, and two wing petals.
Papilla	A minute, nipple-shaped projection.
Papillate, Papillose	Bearing papillae; warty or tuberculate.
Pappus	A modification of the calyx, usually in the Asteraceae family, such that the segments are manifest as a low crown, a ring of scales, or fine hairs.
Papule	A single wart or tubercle.
Parallel	Running side-by-side, from base to tip.
Parallel-veined	A feature occurring largely in the Monocots, where, instead of a network, the observable veins are parallel to each other and the midrib, or nearly so.
Parasite	A plant which grows on and derives nourishment from another living plant.
Parenchymatous	Composed of thin-walled cells.
Patina	A fine crust or film.
Peat	Soil or substrate heavily invested with or even totally composed of partially decayed organic matter.
Pectinate	Fringed or dissected in comb-like fashion.
Pedicel	The stalk of a single flower in a cluster.
Pedicellate	Having a pedicel.
Peduncle	Characteristically referring to the second internode below a flower, but generally applied to any primary stalk which supports a head, flower cluster, or occasionally a single flower.
Pedunculate	Having a peduncle.
Pellucid	Clear; transparent.
Peltate	Leaf/petiole relationship in which the petiole attaches to the blade away from the blade margin. Also similar relationships between stigmas and styles, indusium attachments to the frond surface, etc.
Pendulous	Drooping.
Pepo	The specialized fruit in the gourd family -- essentially a large berry but possessing a thick rind.
Perennial	Pertaining to a plant which lives for more than two years.
Perfect	Pertaining to flowers which contain both stamens and pistils.
Perfoliate	A condition in which the stem appears to pass through the leaf.
Perianth	Pertaining to the floral series of sepals, petals, or both, spoken of collectively.
Pericarp	The wall of the matured ovary.
Perigynium	Referring specifically to the often inflated sac which encloses the achene in the genus Carex.
Perigynous	With the perianth surrounding the ovary.

Persistent	Remaining attached, especially after withering; not caducous.
Petal	A segment of the corolla.
Petaloid	Colored like, or resembling, a petal.
Petiolar, Petiolate	Having a leafstalk.
Petiole	A leafstalk.
Petiolulate	Having a leaflet stalk.
Petiolule	The stalk of a leaflet.
Phloem	The conducting tissue of the vascular system that transports sugars and other compounds, primarily from the leaves, throughout the plant. Compare to xylem.
Phyllary	An involucral bract in the Asteraceae family.
Phyllodium	A somewhat dilated leafstalk having the form of and serving as a leaf blade.
Pilose	Pubescent with soft hairs.
Pinna	One of the principal divisions in a pinnate or pinnately compound leaf or frond.
Pinnate	Referring to a foliar structure which is compound or deeply divided, the principal divisions arranged along each side of a common axis.
Pinnatifid	Incompletely pinnate, the clefts between segments not reaching the axis.
Pinnatisect	Pinnately dissected.
Pinnule	One of the principal divisions of a pinna.
Pistil	That organ comprised of ovary, style (when present), and stigma.
Pistillate	Referring either to plants, inflorescences, or flowers which bear pistils but not stamens.
Pith	The parenchymatous, often spongy or porous, central portions of stems and branchlets.
Pitted	Beset with depressions or pits.
Placenta	The inside portion of the ovary which bears the ovules.
Plait	Specifically, referring to the folded, often fringed, membrane between the corolla lobes in the genus <i>Gentiana</i> .
Plano-convex	Similar to lenticular, but with one of the faces flat instead of convex.
Plicate	Folded into plaits, usually lengthwise, thus similar to corrugated.
Plumose	Beset with numerous, fine, pinnately arranged hairs; resembling a feather.
Pod	A general term used with different fruit types, such as legume (pea pod), follicle (milkweed pod), or for certain seed-bearing capsules (iris pod).
Pollinium	A coherent mass of pollen, such as in the Orchidaceae family and Asclepiadaceae family. Plural: pollinia.
Polygamous	Typically referring to an individual plant which contains both perfect and imperfect flowers.
Polymorphic	Having a number of various forms.
Pome	A fleshy fruit (as in the apple), formed from an inferior ovary with several locules.
Pore	The small area which bursts open in some types of dehiscent capsules; also the opening in some anthers from which the pollen discharges.
Poricidal	Dehiscing by means of pores.
Posterior	Next to or close to the main axis; its opposite is anterior.
Prickle	A sharp, usually slender, bristle or spine of the epidermis, though originating in

	the deeper cell layers.
Primary	Principal; first order.
Primocane	In <i>Rubus</i> , the cane of the first year (usually lacking flowers).
Prismatic	Of the shape of a prism -- angulate with flat sides.
Process	A projection or outgrowth from some parent tissue.
Procumbent	Trailing or reclining, but not rooting at the nodes.
Prostrate	Lying flat upon the substrate.
Proximate	Near. The near end. Opposite meaning of distal.
Puberulent	Minutely hairy.
Pubescent	Hairy.
Pulverulent	Appearing powdery or mealy.
Pulvinus	A swelling or enlargement, typically in the axils of the branches in a grass inflorescence.
Punctate	Dotted, particularly with dark or translucent dots or glands.
Puncticulate	Minutely punctate.
Pungent	Very sharp; acrid to the taste or smell.
Pustular	Bearing blisters or pustules.
Pyramidal	Broadest at the base, tapering apically; pyramid-shaped.
Pyrene	The nutlet of a drupe, such as the seed and bony endocarp of a cherry.
Pyriform	Pear-shaped.
Quadrangular	Four-angled.
Raceme	A simple inflorescence in which the flowers are pedicellate and arranged singly along an elongate axis.
Racemiform	Resembling a raceme; or an adjective describing a raceme.
Racemose	Having flowers in racemes.
Rachilla	A secondary rachis.
Rachis	The principal axis of an inflorescence or compound leaf.
Radially symmetrical	Actinomorphic; capable of being bisected into two or more similar planes. Same as regular.
Radiate	Spreading in all directions.
Ranked	Ordered in a series, usually used with a number, such as two-ranked.
Ray	A strap-shaped, ligulate, typically marginal, flower in the head of a composite inflorescence; also one of the principal branches of an umbellate or cymose inflorescence.
Ray flower	A strap-shaped, ligulate, typically marginal, flower in the head of a composite inflorescence. Also called ligulate flower. Compare to disk flower.
Receptacle	An enlarged or elongated end of a pedicel, peduncle, or scape on which some or all of the flower parts are borne, such as in the Asteraceae family or certain genera in the Rosaceae family.
Recurved	Directed backward or downward.
Reflexed	Abruptly turned or bent downward.
Regular	Radially symmetrical, capable of being bisected into two or more similar planes.

	See actinomorphic.
Remotely	Distantly; far apart.
Reniform	Kidney-shaped.
Repand	Typically with a shallowly, unevenly lobed or sinuate margin.
Repent	Prostrate, creeping along the ground, typically applying to those plants which root at the nodes.
Resinous	Appearing to secrete or exude resin.
Resupinate	Literally oriented upside down.
Reticulate	Forming a network of interconnecting veins.
Retorse	Directed backward or downward.
Retuse	Notched slightly at an usually obtuse apex.
Revolute	Referring to margins which tend to roll back toward the lower surface of the midrib of a foliar structure.
Rhizomatous	Bearing rhizomes.
Rhizome	An underground stem, typically horizontal.
Rhombic	A four-sided, typically obliquely angled, shape.
Rhomboidal	A solid with a rhombic outline.
Riparian	Growing along rivers; pertaining to rivers.
Rootstock	Same as a rhizome; or the root system to which a scion is grafted.
Roseate	Rose-colored.
Rosette	Referring to a dense cluster of basal leaves, particularly with reference to winter annuals or biennials, or to scapose plants in which all the leaves are basal.
Rostellar	Pertaining to the little beak, or rostellum, found in some orchid flowers such as <i>Goodyera</i> .
Rostrate	Beaked.
Rosulate	Turning outward and downward, such as in the petals of a double rose.
Rotate	Pertaining to corollas which are more or less flat and circular in general outline; wheel-like.
Rudimentary	Primitive; poorly developed.
Rufescent, Rufous	Reddish-brown.
Rugose	Wrinkled.
Rugulose	Minutely rugose.
Runcinate	Coarsely and sharply cut or incised, the principal divisions typically directed backward, typified by the leaf of a dandelion.
Runner	A filiform or very slender stolon.
Sac	A pouch or bladder.
Saccate	Having a sac.
Sagittate	Shaped like an arrowhead, usually referring to leaves in which two basal lobes are directed backward and downward.
Saline	Salty.
Salverform	Having a slender tube abruptly expanded into a flat limb, like a Phlox blossom.
Samara	An indehiscent, winged fruit.

Saprophyte	A plant which grows on and derives nourishment from a dead plant or organic matter.
Sarmentose	Producing slender, often, prostrate, runners or branches.
Scaberulous	Minutely scabrous.
Scabrid	Slightly roughened.
Scabridulous	Minutely scabrous.
Scabrous	Rough; harsh to the touch.
Scale	Generally a thin, sometimes scarious, much reduced, leaf, bract, or perianth part.
Scalloped	Said of margins marked by a series of circular or arc-shaped teeth or projections.
Scape	A leafless flowering stem arising directly from the ground; or, such a stem which possesses minute scale-like leaves much smaller than the basal leaves.
Scapose	Having or appearing to have a scape.
Scarious	Typically, thin, dry, papery or membranous; usually not green.
Schizocarp	A pericarp which splits into two to several one-seeded portions, termed mericarps or nutlets.
Scurfy	Bearing mealy or bran-like granules or scales.
Secondary	Once removed from primary, which see.
Secund	Arranged or oriented along one side of an axis, typically referring to the flowers of an inflorescence.
Segment	One of the units of a leaf or perianth that is divided but not fully compound.
Senescent	Growing old; aging.
Sepal	A segment of the calyx.
Sepaloid	Of the texture of, or resembling, a sepal.
Septate	Divided by partitions.
Septicidal	Referring to capsules which dehisce through the side walls or partitions, not opening directly into the locule. Plate 11
Septum	Any kind of partition.
Sericeous	With silky hairs.
Seriform	Having the form of a bristle.
Serotinous	Produced late in the season; late to open; having cones that remain closed long after the seeds are ripe.
Serrate	With sharp, typically forward-pointing, teeth.
Serrulate	Minutely serrate.
Sessile	Without a stalk.
Setaceous	Bristle-like.
Setose	Beset with bristles.
Setulose	Having minute bristles.
Sheath	A tubular structure effected by the formation of leaf margins around the stem.
Shrub	A woody plant, typically smaller than a tree, and typified as being branched from the base with two or more main stems.
Silicle	A short silique.
Silique	A specialized capsule in which a frame-like placenta or partition separates the

	two valves, most often occurring in the mustard family.
Simple	Not compound, a term usually applied to leaves; also, referring to a stem without branches or modifications.
Sinuate	Wavy.
Sinus	A cleft or dissection between two lobes.
Solitary	Alone; single.
Sordid	Appearing dirty; definitely not white.
Sorus	Specifically, in ferns, the clusters or discrete aggregations of sporangia.
Spadix	An inflorescence spike typified by a very fleshy axis.
Spathe	A foliaceous bract-like or sheathiform structure enclosing or partly enclosing an inflorescence.
Spathiform	Resembling a spathe.
Spatulate	Strongly dilated or expanded toward the distal end; spoon-shaped.
Species	A group of like individuals, as white pine or bur oak.
Spicate	Arranged in, or resembling, a spike.
Spiciform	Spike-like.
Spicule	A hard point or protuberance, typically on a leaf margin.
Spike	An unbranched inflorescence in which the flowers are sessile or subsessile along an elongate axis.
Spikelet	A secondary or small spike; specifically, in the Poaceae family, the unit composed of one or two glumes subtending one to several sets of lemma and palea combinations.
Spine	A sharp, stiff, often slender, process; a thorn.
Spinescent	Ending in a spine, or bearing a spine.
Spinose	Having spines; spiny.
Spinulose	With minute spines or stiff bristles.
Spontaneous	Growing wild, without cultivation.
Sporangium	Spore-producing structure.
Spore	An asexual, one-loculed propagule of ferns and fern allies.
Sporocarp	The fruit case of certain flowerless plants, containing sporangia or spores.
Sporophyll	A foliar organ upon which sporangia are produced.
Spur	An extended sac at the base of a corolla; a short branchlet with a very compact arrangement of leaf scars.
Squarrose	Pertaining typically to perianth or involucral segments which bend outward or downward at the tip.
Stalk	The stem of any organ, as the petiole, peduncle, pedicel, filament, or stipe.
Stamen	Pollen-producing structure comprised of the anther and the filament.
Staminate	Referring either to plants, inflorescences, or flowers which bear stamens but not pistils.
Staminodium	A sterile stamen, or any structure lacking an anther but which corresponds to a stamen.
Standard	The upper, dilated or expanded, petal in a papilionaceous flower.
Stellate	Star-shaped, usually in reference to hairs which are branched, forked or divided

	into two to several rays.
Stem	The main axis or principal shoot of a plant.
Sterile	Incapable of reproducing sexually; also, referring to soil, very poor in nutrients.
Stigma	That part of the pistil receptive to pollen.
Stipe	A small connecting stalk; sometimes a small stalk which elevates the pistil or flower above the receptacle or pedicel; also, the petiole of a fern frond or of Lemna.
Stipel	An appendage of a leaflet analogous to a stipule.
Stipitate	Stalked, as defined above under stipe.
Stipular	Belonging to stipules.
Stipulate	With stipules.
Stipule	An appendage or bract situated at either side of a leaf axil.
Stipuliform	Resembling a stipule.
Stolon	A horizontal, prostrate, running branch or stem, often tending to root at the nodes.
Stoloniferous	Having stolons.
Stoma	A minute orifice between two guard cells in a leaf epidermis, through which gaseous exchange is effected -- plural stomata.
Stramineous	Tan or straw-colored.
Striate	Beset with fine, longitudinal lines or grooves.
Strigillose	Minutely strigose.
Strigose	Pubescent with appressed hairs.
Strigulose	Minutely strigose.
Strobile	An inflorescence, often, but not always, indurated or woody, characterized by a series of imbricated scales; a cone.
Style	A usually slender stalk connecting the stigma with the ovary.
Stylopodium	A disk-like expansion of the base of the style, with the term often meaning to include the style as well.
Sub-	Prefix meaning nearly, almost, or less than.
Submersed	Found under water.
Subtend	Referring to any structure situated at the base of another structure.
Subterranean	Below the ground.
Subulate	Awl-shaped.
Subulus	A small point or bristle.
Succulent	Very fleshy and juicy.
Suckers	Vegetative shoots from a proliferating root system.
Suifruticose	Nearly or slightly woody. Compare fruticose.
Sulcate	Grooved or furrowed lengthwise.
Superior	Referring to an organ which stands above or appears over or higher than another similar organ; or in reference to an ovary, free from the calyx.
Supra-, super-	Prefix meaning above, or upon, or more than. Opposite of infra-.
Supra-axillary	Borne above the axil.

Suture	A seam or union between partitions; a line of dehiscence as in a follicle or capsule.
Symmetrical	Regular as to the number of its parts and their shape.
Sympatric	Occupying the same region.
Sympetalous	With petals united, at least at the base.
Symphodial	A determinate inflorescence that simulates an indeterminate inflorescence, as if a scorpioid cyme were straight rather than circinate; or when an alternate-leaved plant's branching pattern mimics an opposite-leaved plant, producing forked branching.
Syncarp	A multiple fruit (usually fleshy), typified by the mulberry group.
Synecology	Referring to the total ecology of a given plant community or community complex.
Taproot	The primary, central, downward-growing root.
Taxon	A discrete taxonomic unit.
Teeth	Sharp processes at the edges of tissues.
Tendrill	A slender, often ultimately coiled, foliar or branch-like organ which clings to a support.
Tepal	Used in reference to the sepals and petals (usually in the Monocots) which often resemble each other; in such instances either a given sepal or a given petal is termed a tepal.
Terete	Circular in cross section.
Terminal	Positioned at the summit.
Terminus	End.
Ternate	Three-parted; with three principal divisions; also, occurring in threes.
Terrestrial	Referring to plants which live out their lives on land.
Testa	Outer coat of a seed.
Tetragonal	Four-angled.
Thorn	A reduced, sharply pointed branch or modified leaf; or remnant that originates below the epidermis. About the same as a spine.
Thyrse	A cylindrical or ovoid, often compact, panicle.
Thyriform	Resembling a thyrse.
Thyrsoid	Having the form of a thyrse.
Tomentose	Densely pubescent with matted hairs.
Tomentulose	Finely tomentose.
Tomentum	Closely matted or tangled hairs.
Toothed	Bearing teeth.
Torulose	Cylindrical, abruptly contracted at intervals, typically occurring in fruits, between the seeds.
Translucent	Between opaque and transparent, thus allowing some light to get through.
Transverse	Running or lying across something.
Tree	A woody plant, typically higher than a shrub, and typified as being unbranched at the base and having a strong single trunk.
Tri-	A prefix meaning three; for example, trifoliolate refers to three leaflets.
Trichome	A stiff, often multicellular, hair.

Trident	With three segments or lobes, usually having a common origin.
Trifid	Three-cleft.
Trigonus	Three-sided.
Tripinnate	Said of a leaf in which the blade is pinnately compound with each of the divisions then bipinnately compound.
Tristigmatic	Bearing three stigmas.
Truncate	Ending abruptly, as if cut straight across.
Tube	Usually referring to the connate parts of either the calyx or the corolla.
Tuber	A term generally referring to any thick, fleshy enlargement of a rhizome or stolon.
Tubercle	A small tuber-like, often indurated, process or protuberance.
Tuberculate	Having tubercles.
Tuberiferous	Bearing tubers.
Tuberose	Resembling a tuber.
Tuberous	Having the character of a tuber; tuber-like in appearance.
Tubular	Tube-like.
Tufted	Usually referring to the compact arrangement of the stem bases with respect to each other and their position in the soil; same as cespitose.
Tumid	Swollen.
Turbinate	Top-shaped; inversely conical.
Turgid	Swollen, or tightly drawn; said of a membrane or covering expanded by pressure from within.
Twig	The shoot of a woody plant representing the growth of the current season and terminated basally by the circumferential terminal bud-scar of the previous year.
Ultimate	Last; final.
Umbel	An inflorescence in which the branches all radiate from a common point.
Umbellate	With umbels.
Umbellet	A secondary umbel.
Umbelliform	Resembling an umbel.
Umbilicate	Indented, invaginated, or depressed near the center.
Uncinate	Hooked or bent at the tip.
Undulate	With a sinuate or wavy surface or margin (up and down, not in and out).
Unisexual	Of one sex, either staminate or pistillate only.
United	Connected.
Unsymmetrical	Irregular as to the number of its parts, or their shape.
Urceolate	Urn-shaped.
Urn-shaped	Hollow and cylindrical or ovoid, and contracted at or below the mouth, like an urn; also known as urceolate.
Utricle	A bladder-like, usually indehiscent, one-seeded fruit.
Valvate	Opening by valves; meeting at the edges without overlapping.
Valve	One of the segments into which a capsule dehisces, previously having been held together by union along a suture.

Variety	An infraspecific taxon with a range or habitat relatively distinct from other taxa within a species.
Vascular	Having veins or conducting vessels.
Vascular Bundle	An aggregate or cluster of vessels.
Vegetative	Referring to plant parts that are not involved in sexual reproduction.
Vein	A thread of fibro-vascular tissue in a leaf or other organ (which often branches). Same as nerve.
Veinlet	A small vein.
Velutinous	Pubescent with velvety hairs.
Venation	The arrangement or nature of the veins.
Ventral	Pertaining to the inner or anterior face of an organ; opposite of dorsal.
Versatile	Attached at or near the middle and turning freely on its support, such as an anther.
Verticil	A whorl.
Verticillate	Having verticils; that is, whorled or appearing so.
Vestigial	Rudimentary.
Villous	With long, straight, soft hairs.
Vine	A plant which climbs or sprawls by means of twining or tendrils; also, a plant which trails or creeps extensively along the ground.
Virgate	Slenderly straight and upright; wand-shaped.
Viscid	Glutinous; sticky; glandular.
Vivipary	Germinating while still on the plant, as certain bulbs and transformations of floral tissues.
Warty	Coarsely papillose.
Whorl	An arrangement of three or more organs at a single node.
Wing	In general, any thin, expanded portion of an organ; sometimes referring to the well developed, exaggerated decurrence of a leaf base; also, one of the two lateral petals of a papilionaceous flower.
Winter annual	An annual which sets its rosette and flowers the following spring.
Wiry	Said of a stem which is thin but stiff.
Woolly	With long, soft, matted or tangled hairs.
Xeric	A microclimatic term which refers to an area in which the soils are dry, containing very little, if any, moisture. Compare to mesic.
Xylem	The conducting tissue of the vascular system that transports water, primarily from the roots, throughout the plant. Compare to phloem.
Zygomorphic	Referring to a calyx or corolla which is bilaterally symmetrical, capable of being divided into two equal halves along one plane only.