ILLUSTRATED GLOSSARY OF BOTANICAL TERMS

FLORA OF THE CHICAGO REGION
A Floristic and Ecological Synthesis
(Wilhelm & Rericha, 2017)
Published by the Indiana Academy of Science (IAS)
September 20, 2020

The glossary for the 4th edition of *Plants of the Chicago Region* (Swink & Wilhelm, 1994) had nearly 200 individual drawings on 12 intercalated plates. These illustrations were popular and a useful feature. However, as the page count in the follow-up book, *Flora of the Chicago Region* (FCR), needed to be reduced, the decision was made not to include an illustrated glossary. In an attempt to make FCR a more useful educational tool, it was recently decided to publish an adjunct illustrated glossary and to post it on the website maintained by the Conservation Research Institute (CRI). The new glossary has been expanded substantially, providing double the number of individual illustrations and terms.

The glossary is available for use without charge. We merely ask that all use of these illustrations and associated glossary be limited to educational and non-commercial activities, and that the IAS, FCR and CRI each be credited in all use.

THE ARTISTS:
- **Paul Nelson** penned the drawings used in the 4th edition of PCR.
- **Mary Marguerite Lowther** created the line art used for each genus in FCR.
- **Kathleen Marie Garness** produced the illustrations used for the addended FCR glossary.

We applaud their talent.

EDITOR’S NOTE: The senior author is a master key writer—the best I know. His keys are clean and precise. Anyone truly interested in learning plants (i.e., distinguishing species) will encounter and at some point will need to know how to use a dichotomous key, which will require a familiarity with botanical terminology. In furtherance of this goal, we present this enhanced tool for your use.
PLATE 1: STEM AND ROOT TYPES

WOODY PLANTS

TREE

SHRUB

(blancks from the base, no bole)

WOODY PLANTS

ASCENDING

DECUMBENT

PERENNIAL PLANTS

CESPIOSE

SIMPLE (ERECT)

PROCUMBENT

REPENT

STOLONIFEROUS (SARMENTOSE)

STOLONIFEROUS RHIZOME

RHIZOME

FIBROUS-ROOTED PERENNIAL

FIBROUS-ROOTED ANNUAL

CORM

BULB

TAPROOT

TUBERS
PLATE 2: LEAF ARRANGEMENTS AND TYPES

ALTERNATE
OPPOSITE
WHORLED
APPRESSED (ADPRESSED)
ASCENDING
DIVARICATE (DIVERGENT)
DEFLEXED

DISTAL
MEDIAL
CAULINE
PROXIMAL
BASAL

SIMPLE (UNDIVIDED)
CONDUPPLICATE
EQUITANT
FASCICULATE
IMBRICATE

DISTICHIOUS
PALMATELY COMPOUND (DIGITATE)
PALMATELY TRIFOLIOLATE (TERNATE)
PINNATELY TRIFOLIOLATE
BITERNATE

rachis
petiole
leaflet

ODD-PINNATE
EVEN-PINNATE
BIPINNATE
TRIPINNATE
PLATE 3 - LEAF SHAPES

ACICULAR  CORDATE  DELTATE  ELLIPTIC  FALCATE
HASTATE  LANCEOLATE  LINEAR  LYRATE  OBCORDATE
TERETE  OBLANCEOLATE  OBLONG  OBOVATE  ORBICULAR
OVAL  OVATE  RENIFORM  RUNCINATE  SAGITTATE  SPATULATE
PLATE 5: LEAF APICES, VENATIONS, AND BASES

APICES

BROADLY
NARROWLY
ACUMINATE
ABRUPTLY
SHORT
BROADLY
ACUTE
APICULATE
ARISTATE

CAUDATE
CUSPIDATE
EMARGINATE
MUCRONATE
OBTUSE
RETUSE

VENATION

midvein/
primary vein

lateral
vein

arcola

ARCUATE
PALMATE
PARALLEL
PINNATE
RETICULATE

BASES

ATTENUATE
AMPLEXICAULE
AURICULATE
CLASPING
CORDATE
CUNEATE
HASTATE

OBLIQUE
PELTATE
PERFOLIATE
ROUNDED
SAGITTATE
TRUNCATE
PLATE 6: SURFACE FEATURES, PUBESCENCE

ANTRORSE  RETRORSE  BARBELATE
CANESCENT  ECHINATE  FARINOSE  FLOCCOSE
GLANDULAR (STIPITATE)  HIRSUTE  HIRTELLOUS  HISPID  LANATE
LEPIDOTE  MURICATE  PANNATE (PANNOSE)  PAPILLATE  PILOSE
PUBERULENT  PULVERULENT  RESINOUS (GLANDULAR) (ATOMIFEROUS)  SCABROUS  SCURFY
SERICEOUS  SETOSE  STELLATE  STRIGOSE  TOMENTOSE
TRICHOME (BRISTLES)  TUBERCULATE  UNCINATE  VELUTINOUS  VILLOUS
PLATE 9: INFLORESCENCE TYPES

CATKINS/AMENTS
SPADIX
SPathe
PEDICELLATE SESSILE
DETERMINATE
INDETERMINATE
RACEMES

SIMPLE
COMPOUND
SCORPIOID/CIRCINATE
DICHASiUM
SIMPLE
COMPOUND
CYMES
CORYMBS

CAPITULUM/HEAD
GLomerule
PANICLE (DICHOSTOMOUS BRANCHING)
SCAPE (ACAULESCENT)
SECUND
SPIKE
THYRSE

DETERMINATE
INDETERMINATE
SIMPLE
COMPOUND
AXILLARY
SUPRA-AXILLARY
UMBELS
VERTICiLS
Plate 10: Floral Morphology

**Symmetry**
- Actinomorphic/Radial
- Zygomorphic/Bilateral

**Floral Paradigm**
- Axis
- Gynoecium
- Androecium
- Corolla
- Perianth
- Calyx

(Note the layered whorls of floral structures)

(Sepals are almost always alternate with the petals and opposite the stamens)

**Ovary/Perianth Position**
- Superior
- Hypogynous
- Perianth
- Inferior
- Epigynous
- Perianth

**Androecium**
- (Stamens)
- Theca (plural: thecae)
- Anther
- Connective
- Filament

**Gynoecium**
- The gynoecium is composed of the stigma, style, and ovary

**Placental Types**
- Marginal
- Axile
- Parietal
- Basal
- Apical
- Free-Central

**Perianth Types**
- United Sepals
- Separate Sepals
- United Corolla Lobes
- Separate Corolla Lobes
PLATE 12: COROLLA TYPES

RADIATE

BILABIATE

CAMPANULATE

CRISTATE (CARINATE)

CORONATE

CRUCIFORM

DISC

FUNNELFORM

GALEATE (CUCULLATE)

GIBBOUS

HOOD & HORN

LIGULATE

PALATE

PAPILIONACEOUS

ROTATE

SACCATE

SALVERFORM

SPURRED

TUBULAR

URCEOLATE
Glossary

This glossary includes definitions of words that have special meaning in a botanical or entomological context. Also included are terms that relate specifically to certain insects and pollination to accommodate their usage in Flora of the Chicago Region, a Floristic and Ecological Synthesis, by Wilhelm & Rericha, 2017. Generally, we have excluded plurals and adjectival forms of nouns. The user should be aware that Latin nouns are rendered according to their declension. Singular masculine nouns ending in -us end in -i in the plural: annulus, annuli. Neuter nouns ending in -on or -um end in -a in the plural: taxon, taxa; haustorium, haustoria. Feminine nouns ending in -a in the singular end in -ae in the plural: ocrea, ocreae; areola, areolae. Words shown in italics in the definitions are described elsewhere in the glossary. The Arabic numeral or numerals after a treated botanical term indicates the plate number on which an example or illustration is provided.

A

a- – Prefix, meaning without or not.
abaxial – 7 ~ Said of a surface that faces away from the axis of the structure to which it is attached.
abdomen – The posterior portion of the 3-parted body of an insect.
aberrant – Atypical.
abortive – Defective, barren, or undeveloped.
abrupt – 5 ~ Sudden, not gradual.
abscission – The disconnection of a leaf, flower, fruit, or other plant part, usually forming a scar.
acaulescent – 9 ~ Stemless or apparently so.
accrescent – Increasing in size after flowering, most commonly in reference to the calyx.
achene – 13, 14 ~ A hard, 1-seeded, indehiscent nutlet with a tight pericarp.
acicular – 3 ~ Needle-like.
actinomorphic – 10 ~ Radially symmetrical; capable of being bisected into two or more similar planes.
acuminate – 5 ~ Tapering with incurved marginal lines to a slender tip.
acute – 5 ~ Tapering with straight marginal lines to a sharp tip.
adaxial – 7 ~ Said of a surface that faces toward the axis of the structure to which it is attached.
adherent – Joined to a dissimilar plant tissue. Compare with coherent.
admixed – Blended.
adnate – Born together.
adpressed – 2 ~ Lying close to but separate from another tissue or organ.
adventitious – Sprouting or growing from unusual places, such as roots that originate from a stem, or buds that associate with wounds.
adventive – Not native, introduced.
aerial – 8 ~ Said of structures that originate above the ground.
aggregated – 13 ~ Crowded together.
alate – 7 ~ Winged.
Alfisol – A taxonomic order of soils, usually forest-developed, that lacks the organic matter and productivity of a richer soil, such as a Mollisol, and possesses a leached horizon and subtending zone of accumulated clay.
alkaline – Having a pH higher than 7.0.
allochthonous – Not indigenous.
alluvium – Sand, silt, and other particles deposited by moving water.
alternate – 2 ~ One after the other along an axis, not opposite.
alveolate – Like a honeycomb; with angular cavities separated by partitions.
ament – A dry, usually elongate, often pendulous, scaly spike that bears imperfect flowers; a catkin.
amentiferous – Bearing aments.
amplexicaule – Clasping the stem, culm, or similar axis.
anastomose – To interconnect, such as the veins of a leaf.
androecium – The portion of the flower that bears the stamens.
androgynous – With staminate flowers situated above the pistillate ones in the same inflorescence. Compare with gynecandrous.
anemophilous – Pollinated by wind.
angled – having angles, usually along a stem or petiole.
angiosperm – A flowering plant that produces seeds enclosed in a structure derived from the ovary.
angulate – Having angles.
annual – Plant that completes its life cycle in one year or less.
annulus – Tissue that forms a ring or is arranged in a circle.
antenna – One of a pair of elongate, usually segmented, sensory organs on the head of an insect.
antennation – Referring to the touching of an object, such as an anther, by the antenna(e) of an insect to smell it.
antepetalous – With stamens opposite the petals.
anterior – Plants: positioned away from the stem or axis. Insects: in front of.
antesepalous – With stamens opposite the sepals.
anther – Pollen-bearing portion of the stamen.
antherode – A sterile anther.
anthesis – Time of flowering during which the anthers dehisce and the stigmas are receptive to pollen.
antorse – Directed forward or distally.
apetalous – Without petals.
apex – Tip, end.
apical – Pertaining to the apex.
apiculate – Abruptly short-pointed.
apiculus – A short point or minute beak.
appendage – An attached, often evidently functionless vegetative process.
apressed – Lying flat against a surface.
approximate – Borne near but not fused.
aquatic – Living out the life cycle in water.
arachnoid – Like a cobweb.
arboreal – Tree-like or pertaining to a tree.
arborescent – Becoming tree-like.
arculate – Arching, bowed.
areola – Space between the veins of a leaf or some similar structure.
aril – An appendage that grows out from a seed.
arillate – Having an aril.
aristate – Tipped by a stiff bristle; awned.
armed – Bearing barbs, prickles, spines, or thorns.
aromatic – Having a discernible odor; fragrant.
array – With respect to the Asteraceae, the disposition of the heads, usually evocative of a corymb, cyme, or panicle.
article – A section of a leguminous fruit separated from other sections by a constriction or partition.
articulation – A joint.
ascent – Growing or directed in an upward direction, or at least tending to do so.
asexual – Applied to reproduction without the involvement of a zygote.
asymmetrical – Unequally developed on either side of an axis.
atom – Small, usually resinous dot or gland.
atomiferous – Bearing atoms.
attenuate – Gradually tapered to a slender tip.
atypical – Varying from the usual.
auricle – Ear-shaped appendage or lobe.
auriculate – Bearing an auricle.
autogamy – Self-fertilization.
autumnal – Appearing or flowering in fall.
aven – A stiff bristle, usually situated at the tip of a leaf or perianth segment; in grasses, at or near 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, commonly where buds, branchlets, or flower stalks are borne.
axile – Positioned along the central axis of an ovary that has two or more locules.
axillary – Pertaining to an axil.
axillary bud – Bud arising from an axil.
axis – The central part of a longitudinal support, commonly of a stem or inflorescence, on which organs or parts are arranged.

B

banner – Larger upper petal in a papilionaceous flower.
barb – Short, sharp, process or stiff hair.
barbellate – Beset with fine barbs.
bark – All tissues of a woody plant stem or branch external to the cambium.
based – Pertaining to the lowermost part of a plant or plant organ.
base-rich – Rich in basic ions, such as calcium and magnesium.
basifixed – Said of an organ attached to its stalk at the base.
beak – A slender terminal process, usually abruptly differentiated from the general outline of the organ from which it originates; often applied to fruits and pistils.
bearded – Bearing a localized tuft of hairs.
berry – A fleshy or pulpy fruit, typically with two or more seeds that develop from a single ovary.
bi – Prefix meaning two or twice.
bicolored – Of two different shades, particularly on either side of a leaf.
biconvex – Convex on both surfaces.
bidentate – Having two teeth.
biennial – Plant that requires two years to complete its life cycle, the first year typically manifested by a rosette, the second year with the production of an inflorescence.
bifid – Cleft into two parts, usually at the summit of some organ.
bilabiate – Two-lipped; most often applied to zygomorphic perianths.
bilateral – Generally with 2 similar halves, such as is seen in a zygomorphic flower.
bilobed – With two lobes.
bilocular – With two locules.
binomial – A taxonomic name that consists of a genus and species.
bipinnate – Twice pinnately compound.
bipinnatifid – Twice pinnatifid.
biteminate – 2 ~ Twice ternate; when the divisions of a leaf are divided into three.
bivalved – Having two sides or units that originate at a common point.
bladder – An inflated sac that contains either fluid or air.
blade – 7, 14 ~ The expanded portion of a foliar or floral organ.
bloom – A whitish powdery or waxy covering on the surface of an organ.
blunt – Obtuse; with a rounded tip.
body – 14 ~ Generally, the ovary-bearing portion of an ovary, as apart from the beak.
bole – 1 ~ The trunk of a tree.
boreal – Northern.
bract – 9, 14 ~ A reduced leaf or scale, typically one that subtends a pedicel or an inflorescence or flower.
bracteal – Pertaining to a bract.
bracteate – With bracts.
bracteole – 11 ~ A small bract, typically one that subtends a flower, the pedicel of which already is subtended by a bract.
bractlet – A secondary bract, as one upon the pedicel of a flower.
branch – 1, 7 ~ A secondary shoot that arises from a stem or the bifurcation of a root into smaller order units.
branchlet – A division of a branch, smaller than the main branch.
bristle – 6 ~ Stiff hair or trichome.
bristly – With bristles.
brunescence – Becoming brown or brownish.
bud – 7 ~ Developing tissue enclosed in scales or valves, usually in an axil.
bud scales – 7 ~ Small, often chartaceous, modified leaves that enclose a bud.
bulb – 1 ~ A short, usually subterranean, often subglobose, stem surrounded by scales or modified leaves.
bulbil – 7 ~ A small, usually axillary, bulb-like organ.
bulblet – 7 ~ A small bulb-like organ, particularly one that proliferates from a leaf axil or sterile flower.
bulbous – Having the character of a bulb or the shape of a round protrusion.
bullate – Blistered or convexly puckered.
bundle scar – 7 ~ A tiny mark in the leaf scar which marks the vascular pattern once present in the leaf.
brur – A spiny or prickly, usually dry, fruit or infructescence.

C
caducous – Falling off early or prematurely; deciduous.
calcicole – Limy, containing calcium.
calcicolous – Inhabiting a calcicole substrate, such as growing in calcium-rich soil.
calcifuge – A plant poorly suited to calcicole soils.
calciphile – With a propensity for calcicole habitats.
callosity – A hardened thickening.
callus – A hard protuberance or callosity. In grasses, the swelling at the base or joint of insertion of the lemma or palea.
calyx – 10, 11 ~ The outer, lowermost series of perianth parts; the sepals taken collectively (pl. calyces).
cambium – Thin layer of meristematic cells, typically that which gives rise to secondary xylem or phloem.
campanulate – 12 ~ Bell-shaped or cup-shaped, typically with a flared or enhanced rim.
canalicular – Having a groove or channel.
cancellate – Having a net-like or sculptured surface.
cane – The elongated new shoot of shrubs, such as in the genus Rubus.
canescence – Gray-hairy indument.
canescent – 6 ~ Densely beset with matted, often grayish hairs.
capillary – Hair-like.
capitate – Head-like; densely clustered.
capitate – Bearing a head.
capitulum – 9 ~ A small head of flowers.
capsule – 13 ~ A dry dehiscent fruit composed of two or more carpels.
carinate – 12 ~ With a longitudinal ridge or crest.
carpel – 13 ~ 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 nutlet-like fruit with a thin pericarp; a grain.
castaneous – Dark reddish-brown, chestnut-colored.
cation – An ion with a positive charge, such as is characterized by the important plant nutrients Ca++, Mg++, and K+.
cation exchange capacity – The capacity of a soil to hold exchangeable cations.
catkin – 9 ~ An ament.
caudate – 5 ~ Tail-like or bearing a long, narrowly tapering appendage.
caudex – 1 ~ The ligneous or woody base of a perennial plant.
cauline – 2 ~ Pertaining to the stem or features of the stem.
cell – A singular, ovule-bearing space within an ovary; carpel.
cespitose – 1 ~ Tufted; referring to the compact, centrally arranged bases of stems or culms.
chaff – Dry, scaly, and often small bracts; typically in reference to scales that subtend the individual flowers in heads in the Asteraceae; see also pale.
chambered – 7 ~ Areas of the pith of twigs where partitions occur at intervals.
chartaceous – Thin, but firm; resembling ancient writing paper.
chasmogamous – Flowers that are open for pollination.
chlorophyll – The green pigment in the cells of plants essential for photosynthesis.
cilia – Hairs or slender bristles confined to the margins of an organ.
ciliate – 4 ~ Fringed with cilia or bearing cilia.
ciliolate – 4 ~ Minutely ciliate.
ciliolulate – Minutely ciliolate.
cinereous – Ash-gray colored.
circinate – 9 ~ Coiled, as in unrolled fern fronds; scorpionoid.
circumscissile – 13 ~ Pertaining to the dehiscence of a capsule, which opens by a circular, horizontal line, the top usually coming off as a lid.
eladophyll – A leaf-like, terete or flattened branch.
clammy – Sticky, greasy.
claspers – 5 ~ Tending to encircle or invest, as in the base of a leaf that forms partly around the stem to which it is attached.
clavate – Club-shaped; dilated apically.
claw – 12 ~ The narrowed base or stalk of some petals.
cleft – 4 ~ Distinctly divided or incised.
cleistogamous – Fertilized in a permanently unopened flower.
cleptoparasite – As it relates to bees, a female cleptoparasite enters a host nest to lay an egg. After the egg hatches, its larva eats the food provisions collected by the bee host. The host egg is destroyed by either the laying cleptoparasite or the cleptoparasitic larva.

clonal – A group of individuals resulting from vegetative propagation, presumably a genetic duplicate of the source plant.

crude – Rough.

coherent – Joined or combined with similar plant tissue. Compare with adherent.

colloid – As it relates to soils, the soil colloids consist of clays and organic matter (humus), which have a charged surface area (typically a net negative surface charge) that can hold or adsorb cations.

column – 11 ~ A sheathing structure formed by the uniting of stamens around a pistil; fusion of stamens and pistils into a single structure.

columnar – Growth form shaped like a column or pillar.

coma – A dense tuft of hairs, often resembling a beard, attached to a seed.

commissure – 13 ~ The face or grooved seam where two carpels come together.

comose – Bearded; with a coma.

composite – 11 ~ Any plant in the Asteraceae.

compound – 2, 9 ~ An assembly of two or more like parts, such as in a description of a leaf or inflorescence.

compressed – Strongly flattened.

concave – The inverse of convex.

concentric – Two or more circles of different sizes having a center in common.

concolorous – With two or more parts or surfaces similarly colored.

conduplicate – 2 ~ Folded together lengthwise.

cone – 8 ~ Three-dimensional object with a circular base, the sides all curved and tapering to a point at the summit; the seed-bearing structure of pines and their relatives; a spore-bearing structure in the genus Equisetum.

confluent – The seamless convergence of two or more parts.

conical – Cone-shaped.

coniferous – Cone-bearing.

conjoined – Joined together.

connate – Said of two or more parts fused or united into a singular structure.

connective – 10 ~ The part of the stamen that connects the two parts of an anther.

connivent – Meeting at a common point, but not fused.

conspicuous – Said of two or more described taxa that are believed to belong to the same species.

contiguous – Adjoining or touching.

continuous – 7 ~ Uninterrupted, such as in an unchambered pith

contracted – Abruptly narrowed or reduced.

converge – Arrive or come together.

convex – Curved or rounded, as the exterior surface of a circular form viewed from without; opposite of concave.

convolute – 4 ~ Said of a leaf margin that is rolled on the abaxial surface toward the midrib; compare with involute.

coralline – Brittle, coral-like.

corbicula – A pollen-carrying “basket” on the hind tibia, femur, or propodeum of females of some bee genera, the surface concave or flat, usually smooth, and surrounded by short to long hairs. A corbicula on bees in the genera Apis and Bombus is on the outer surface of a hind tibia.

cordate – 3, 5 ~ Heart-shaped.

coriaceous – Leather-like.
corm – 1 ~ Solid, bulb-like stem tissue, usually subterranean, as in the “bulb” of a Crocus or Gladiolus.
cormose – With a corm.
corniculate – 12 ~ With a horn-like process.
corolla – 10, 11, 12 ~ The inner series of perianth parts, often colored; the petals taken collectively; the upper whorl of the perianth, the petals usually alternate with the sepals.
corona – 11 ~ A cylindric or crown-like modification of the perianth.
corone – 12 ~ With a corona.
corpusculum – 11 ~ The central, sticky, pad-like structure of the pollinarium in the Asclepiadaceae that facilitates transfer to an insect when it visits an inflorescence.
corrugated – Wrinkled or folded in parallel lines.
cortex – Bark; smooth surface indument.
corymb – 9 ~ An arrangement of the inflorescence in which stalked flowers are situated along a central axis, the flowers tending to attain the same elevation with respect to each other, the older at the edges.
corymbiform – Resembling a corymb.
corymbose – With a corymb.
corymbulose – With a small corymb.
costa – Rib or vein.
costate – Having one or more costae.
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.
creeping – Growing along the surface or just below the ground.
crenate – 4 ~ Very shallowly toothed with broad, blunt teeth.
crenulate – 4 ~ Minutely crenate.
crescent-shaped – 8 ~ Said of an organ bent in one direction, such as a quarter moon.
crest – A ridge or strong keel, typically along one side of an achene or nutlet; the elevated portion of a petal, as in some Iris species.
crisped – Curled, wavy, or crinkled.
cristate – 12 ~ With a crest.
crosier – Evocative of a bishop’s staff, the end coiled into a hook, such as in the fiddleheads of ferns.
crown – That portion of a perennial stem at the ground surface; canopy of a tree; remnants of a persistent calyx atop an ovary or fruit; in the Poaceae, a dilated ring at the summit of lemmas of certain genera; in the Asteraceae, scales or awns at the summit of an achene.
cruciform – 12 ~ Cross-shaped.
cucullate – 12 ~ Hood-shaped.
culm – 14 ~ The stem of grasses, sedges, and rushes.
cultivar – A variant of a species maintained through cultivation and vegetative propagation, designated by single quotes.
cuneate – 5 ~ Wedge-shaped.
cupuliform – Cup-like.
cusp – An abrupt point or tooth.
cuspidate – 5 ~ Bearing a cusp.
cuticle – An often waxy outer layer of epidermal cells.
cyathium – 11 ~ The cupuliform involucre characteristic of the Euphorbiaceae that contains a pistillate flower and 1-many staminate flowers.
cylindric – Shaped like a cylinder.
cyme – 9 ~ An often flat-topped inflorescence, the central floret of which flowers first.
cymiform – Resembling a cyme.
cymose – Bearing a cyme or cyme-like inflorescence.
cymule – A small, often compacted and usually few-flowered cyme.

D
DBH ~ The diameter of a tree at breast height.
deciduous – 14 ~ Pertaining to plants that shed their herbaceous tissues; not evergreen; caducous.
decomound – Divided or compound more than once.
decumbent – 1 ~ Trailing along the ground, but with the inflorescence or summit of the stem ascending or erect.
decurrent – 7 ~ Usually pertaining to some flat foliar organ, the tissue of which continues beyond its base along 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 – 2 ~ Abruptly directed downward; reflexed.
debisce – To open along a line or suture.
debiscent – The adjetical form of debisce.
deliquescent – Dissolving.
deltate – 3 ~ A two-dimensional triangular shape.
deltoid – A three-dimensional triangular shape.
dentate – 4 ~ Toothed, particularly in regard to leaf margins.
denticulate – 4 ~ Minutely dentate.
depauperate – Poor; with little sustenance or vigor.
descending – Directed downward at a moderate angle.
determinate – 9 ~ Inflorescence with terminal flowers that open first; compare with indeterminate.
diadelphous – Describing stamens as two distinct sets, with each set connate by their filaments or with one of the sets as a free filament.
diaphragm – A dividing membrane or partition; a feature of chambered pith.
dichasium – 9 ~ A cyme with two lateral axes.
dichotomous – 9 ~ Forking regularly in two directions.
dicot – Angiosperm with two cotyledons.
didynamous – Having four stamens in two pairs of different lengths.
diffuse – Sparsely disposed.
digitate – 2 ~ Typically referring to a compound leaf in which the leaflets originate from a common point at the apex of a petiole; also said of similarly disposed inflorescences.
dilated – Expanded or enlarged.
dimorphic – Having two forms.
dioecious – Pertaining to plants, individuals of which bear either staminate or pistillate flowers, but not both.
diploid – With the full complement of chromosomal content.
disarticulate – To separate.
disc – 11, 12 ~ The central portion of a capitately inflorescence or the receptacle of such an inflorescence; a structure formed by the coalescence of stigmas as in the Papaveraceae; the development of the receptacle at or around the base of the petals, as in Acer and Euonymus.
disc floret – 11 ~ Flowers with tubular, usually actinomorphic corollas in the Asteraceae.
discoid – In reference to the Asteraceae, a head that bears no ligulate florets.
dissected – Cut or divided into narrow segments.
**distal** – 2 ~ The direction or point away from the base or point of attachment.

**distichous** – 2 ~ Arranged in two vertical series; 2-ranked.

**distigmatic** – Bearing two stigmas.

**distinct** – Separate and usually evident.

**distichous** – 2 ~ Arranged in two vertical series; 2-ranked.

**divaricate** – Widely spreading or divergent.

**divergent** – 2 ~ Directed away from an axis.

**divided** – Cut or lobed to the midrib.

**dorsal** – Relating to the back or outer surface of an organ.

**downy** – Covered with soft hair.

**drupe** – 13 ~ A typically 1-locular, fleshy or pulpy fruit with a hard or stony endocarp.

**drupelet** – 13 ~ A small drupe.

**dulotic** – A word that describes a slave-making species of ant (e.g. in the genus Polyergus) that captures workers and brood of other ant species during nest-raiding forays.

**dune** – A mound or ridge of coarse to fine-textured sediment shaped by wind.

**E**

**e-** ~ Prefix, meaning without or not.

**eccentric** – Off-center, 1-sided.

**echinate** – 6 ~ Bearing stout, often bluntish spines or prickles.

**edaphic** – In reference to soil.

**elaiophore** – An oil-secreting floral gland or trichome.

**elaiosome** – 13 ~ A usually fleshy, protein and lipid-rich appendage on a seed or fruit.

**elastically** ~ Said of fruits that dehisce and eject, often forcibly, their seeds.

**elevated** – Raised, as a ridge; extending beyond.

**ellipsoid** – Solid, but with an elliptical outline.

**elliptic** – 3 ~ An elongate shape with curved lines, broadest near the middle.

**emarginate** – 5 ~ With a shallow notch at the tip; similar to retuse.

**embryo** – Incipient plant within the seed.

**emergent** – Pertaining to an aquatic plant that extends, at least partly, out from the water.

**emerged** – Extending above the surface of the water.

**endemic** – Said of an organism, the geographic range of which is relatively small.

**endocarp** – Inner layer of the pericarp.

**endosperm** – In a seed, the reserve food stored around or next to the embryo.

**ensiform** – Sword-shaped.

**entire** – 4 ~ With margins that are neither crenate, serrate, or dentate.

**Entisol** – A taxonomic order of soils with little or no horizon development, such as one formed in eolian sand or affected by urbanization.

**entomophilous** – Said of a flower pollinated by insects.

**eolian** – As it relates to sediments carried and deposited by wind.

**ephemeral** – Said of plants that last for a very short period of time.

**epidermis** – The superficial layer of cells.

**epigynous** – 10 ~ A flower with the calyx situated on the summit of the ovary.

**epipegon** – A soil horizon at or near the surface.

**epizoochory** – The dispersal of seeds or fruits, usually ones with spines or stiff hairs, on the outer surface of animals, such as on or in the fur of mammals.
equitant – 2 ~ Pertaining to the 2-ranked arrangement of usually conduplicate leaves; overlapping in two ranks.
erect – 1 ~ Upright.
erineum – A felt-like growth of hairs from the epidermis, the exaggerated production of which is stimulated by a mite.
erose – 4 ~ Pertaining to margins that appear unevenly cut or incised, as if eroded.
esculent – Edible.
evanescent – Said of tissues that disappear in time; fast-fading.
evien-pinnate – 2 ~ Pinnately compound without a terminal leaflet.
evergreen – Sustaining green foliage throughout the year.
ex – Away from; out from.
excurrent – Usually in reference to veins and nerves that run beyond the margin of an organ from where it originates, often as an awn or bristle.
exfoliating – Loosely shedding in thin or stringy layers.
exocarp – Outer layer of the pericarp.
expressed – Elevated above a surface; compare with impressed.
exserted – Prolonged beyond the rim of an enveloping or confining structure.
exstipulate – Without stipules.
extrafloral nectary – An apparent or obscure gland on a plant removed from a flower, such as on a stem or leaf, and exuding a fluid or nectar.
extrorse – Directed or faced outwardly.
exudate – A substance excreted.

F
faceted – With one or more planar surfaces.
falcate – 3 ~ Sickle-shaped; slenderly curved and tapering to a usually sharp tip, after the manner of a hawk’s beak.
falls – Of iris flowers, the outer whorl or series of perianth parts, often flexuous and broader than ones of the inner series.
farinose – 6 ~ Resembling farina; typically used to describe the white-mealy, strongly modified hairs in some species in the Chenopodiaceae.
fascicle – A cluster or bundle, often originating in an axil.
fasciculate – 2 ~ Bearing fascicles.
fastigiate – Stiffly erect; neither divaricate nor divergent.
ferruginous – Rust-colored.
fertile – 8 ~ Capable of bearing mature seeds and/or viable pollen.
fertilized – The union of a sperm and egg.
fetid – With a disagreeable odor.
fibrillose – Beset or provided with numerous fine fibers.
fibrous – 1 ~ In reference to a much branched root system of relatively fine, short-lived roots.
fiddlehead – 8 ~ In ferns, the circinate fronds.
filament – 10, 14 ~ Anther-bearing stalk of a stamen.
filiform – 8 ~ Thread-like, filamentous.
fimbriate – 8 ~ Fringed.
fimbriolate – Minutely fringed.
fistulose – 8 ~ Hollow, often pertaining to stems with hollow centers.
flabelliform – Fan-like.
flaccid – Soft, slack, or limp.
flagellate – Characterized by slender runners.
flange – A projecting rim or edge.
fleshy – Thick and succulent.
flexuous – Flexible; easily bent.
flaccose – 6 ~ Beset with tangled or cobwebby hairs.
floral – In reference to flowers or inflorescences.
floral constancy – The fidelity of an insect, during a foraging bout, to regularly visit flowers of a particular plant species.
floret – 11, 14 ~ A single flower, usually small and one of several to many in a cluster; the lemma and palea together in a grass spikelet.
floricane – The second-year flowering cane of the genus Rubus.
floriferous – Bearing flowers.
flower – The reproductive organ of a plant that bears stamens and/or pistils.
fluted – With a parallel series of grooves.
foliaceous – Leafy; leaf-like.
foliar – Pertaining to the leaves.
−foliate – A disposition of the leaves.
−foliolate – A disposition of the leaflets.
follicle – 13 ~ A dry fruit that consists of a single carpel that dehisces along one suture.
forb – Non-woody, non-grass-like plant.
−form – Meaning alike or resembling.
forma – An infraspecific taxonomic entity, usually involving simple or single phenotypic traits that appear spontaneously within a population of a species; an example is flower color.
foveolate – Bearing small pits or depressions.
free – Not united, usually in reference to sepals and petals.
free-central – 10 ~ A form of axile placentation where the axis is not connected to the ovary walls.
friable – Easily crumbled; fragile.
fringed – Pertaining to margins with bristles or cilia.
frond – 8 ~ The leaf-like blade of a fern.
frondose – Leafy.
fruit – 13 ~ Ripened ovary, the structure that bears the mature seed.
fruticose – Shrubby or shrub-like, often woody in part.
fugacious – Falling away early.
fulvous – Tawny; dull yellow-brown.
funnelform – 12 ~ Shaped like a funnel.
furcate – Forked.
fuscous – Dark, gray-brown.
fusiform – Spindle-shaped, tapering from the middle toward both ends.

G

galeate – 12 ~ Hood-like; helmet-shaped.
gall – An abnormal growth on a plant induced by an insect, but also caused by arachnids, bacteria, fungi, and other organisms.
gamete – A haploid reproductive cell that bears half of the chromosomal complement of an organism.
gametophyte – Thallus that produces gametes.
gamoepalous – With calyx lobes united.
gaster – See abdomen.
geniculate – Knee-like; usually in reference to an abrupt bend at the node of a stem or culm, or a dramatic bend in a grass awn.
gibbous – Swollen or protuberant on one side.
glabrate – Nearly without hairs.
glabrescent – Becoming hairless.
glabrous – Hairless.
gland – A sessile or stalked structure that can secrete a fluid.
glandular – Bearing glands.
glaucous – Covered by or imbued with a white or pale-bluish, often waxy bloom.
globose – Spherical; globe-like.
globular – Globose.
glochidiate – Said of bristles barbed at the tip.
glomerate – Tightly clustered, usually in reference to compact clusters of short-stalked flowers.
glomerulate – Minutely glomerate.
glomerule – A small cluster, commonly a subunit within an inflorescence.
glume – The lowest one or two empty scales that subtend the usually fertile scales, most commonly applied in the Poaceae.
glutinous – With sticky exudates or secretions.
grain – The fruit of most grasses—a caryopsis; a single unit of pollen.
granular – Appearing to consist of tiny grains, like sand.
grit cells – The hard, almost stony cells found in some fleshy fruits, especially pears.
gymnosperm – Seed-bearing plant in which the ovule is borne on an open scale, not embedded in an ovary.
gynecandrous – With pistillate flowers situated above the staminate ones in the same inflorescence. Compare with androgynous.
gynobase – An enlargement or enhancement of the tissue beneath the ovary.
gynoecium – The pistil or collective group of pistils of a flower; female portions of the flower as a whole.
gynostegium – In the Asclepiadaceae, a complex structure formed by the fusion of the stamens, styles, and stigmas.

H
halophilic – With a predilection for saline soils.
halophyte – A plant that grows in saline soils.
haploid – With half the full component of the chromosomal content.
bastate – Resembling an arrowhead, particularly with respect to the lobed, typically flaring, basal portion of a leaf.
bastiform – Somewhat bastate.
bastoriu – In parasitic plants, a specialized outgrowth of the stem or root that accesses nutrients from a host plant—as in the dodders.
head – A dense, compact cluster of mostly sessile flowers.
helmet – A hood-shaped organ, usually a petal, best exemplified in the genus Aconitum.
hemiparasite – A parasitic plant that is photosynthetic but derives nutrients from a host plant.
herb – A non-woody, non-grass plant; plant with aromatic or medicinal essences or properties; forb.
herbaceous – Not woody.
herbage – In reference to green leaves and non-woody shoots.
heterostylic – Describing styles of different lengths in a corolla.
hexaploid – With six replicates of the chromosome set.
herpetofauna – The amphibians and reptiles of a habitat or region.
bilum – The scar or point of attachment of a seed.
hexaploid – With six replicates of the chromosome set.
hilum – The scar or point of attachment of a seed.
hip – Fruit exemplified by the genus Rosa.
hirsute – 6 – Beset with stiff or coarse, usually straight hairs.
hirsutulous – Minuteely hirsute.
hirtellous – 6 – Beset with short, stiff hairs.
hispid – 6 – Coarsely hirsute or bristly hairy.
hispidulous – Minuteely hispid.
Histosol – A taxonomic order of dark-hued, organic-rich soils, consisting of peat and/or muck, that have accumulated in wet environments and are composed of partially to highly decomposed fecal matter of aquatic organisms and/or plant matter.
hoary – Clothed with close, fine, usually grayish or whitish hairs.
Holocene – Era of time that includes the entire post-glacial period.
hollow – 7 – Generally, the central portion of a twig or stem that is empty of pith.
hoof – 11, 12 – Specifically, the part of an Asclepias flower in which the filaments are greatly modified into petal-like, nectariferous, hoof-like organs; in general, an organ that is arched or concave.
horizontal – In a soil, a zone that possesses unique characteristics and properties—such as organic matter content, color, and texture—and which differs from adjacent soil horizons.
born – 11, 12 – An incurved appendage often present in the hoof of an Asclepias flower.
hyaline – Transparent or translucent.
hybrid – The offspring of parents of two species, generally from the same genus.
hynanthium – 10 – Floral tube formed by the fusion of sepals, petals, and stamens.
hypogynium – A disc-like structure that subtends an ovary in the genus Scleria.
hypogynous – 10 – Flower with the calyx situated below the ovary.

I
imbricate – 2, 7 – A general term describing one organ or series of organs overlapping another organ or series of organs, like roof shingles.
immaculate – Without spots.
immersed – Growing beneath the surface of the water.
imperfect – In reference to a flower bearing one set of sex organs, either an androecium or a gynoecium, but not both.
impressed – Not flush with a surface, sunken in; compare with expressed.
Inceptisol – A taxonomic order of soils with weak horizon development.
icised – 4 – Deeply cut or divided.
include – Contained within, usually in reference to stamens, styles, or capsules that do not surpass or exceed the rim or lip of a calyx or corolla.
icurved – Curled or directed inward, such as hairs, the tips curving toward the stem or surface of an organ.
indefinite – Describing fruits not opening at maturity.
indefinite – 9 – In reference to an inflorescence in which the terminal flowers open last; compare with determinate.
indument – A covering of hairs or scales.
indurated – Hardened.
indusium – 8 ~ In ferns, the delicate flap or covering connected to the sorus.

inferior – 10 ~ In reference to an organ that 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.

inflated – Dilated, bladder-like.
inflexed – Bent inward.
inflorescence – The discrete flowering array or portion of a plant; a flower cluster.
infraspecific – Pertaining to any taxonomic element below the rank of species.
infrastipular – In reference to prickles situated at the node, as in the genus Rosa.
infructescence – The fruiting inflorescence.
inrolled – Said of leaf margins rolled inward toward the midrib.

insipid – Without taste or flavor.

internode – 7, 14 ~ That portion of the stem other than the node; the distance between two nodes.

interspecific – Taxonomic entities derived from hybridization between two species.

interspersed – Scattered within or among.

interstitial – The space between or among two or more discrete structures; in the Rosaceae, in reference to the small leaflets between two larger leaflets on the rachis.

infrastaminal – Among the stamens.

introduced – Not native, adventive.
introrse – Turned inward or toward the axis.

invaginated – Folded inward; cleft-like.

involucel – A secondary involucre, subtending an umbellet in the Apiaceae.

involucre – A whorl or imbricated series of bracts, typically subtending a flower cluster or a solitary flower; often appearing calyx-like.

involute – 4 ~ Describing a leaf margin rolled on the adaxial surface toward the midrib or central axis; compare with revolute.

irregular – In reference to a calyx or corolla being bilaterally symmetrical and capable of being divided into two equal halves along only one plane; compare with regular.

isodiametric – Said of shapes with sides or diameters of nearly equal lengths.

J

jaculator – That which throws or casts.

jointed – With nodes or areas that appear articulated.

K

keel – 11 ~ A longitudinal fold or ridge; in the Fabaceae, the two anterior, usually united, petals of a papilionaceous flower that often encloses the stamens and pistil.

klint – An exhumed or exposed ancient coral reef (pl. klintar).

L

lacerate – 4 ~ Unevenly cut or incised.
laciniate – 4 ~ Deeply and sharply cut into slender segments.
lacuna – A defined space, usually circumscribed by veinlets.
lamella – A thin flat plate or laterally flattened ridge.
lamina – 7, 14 ~ A blade-like surface.
lanate – 6 ~ Densely woolly-pubescent.
lanceolate – 3 ~ Lance-shaped, broadest below the middle, long-tapering above the middle, and several times longer than wide.

lanuginose – Woolly or cottony.
lateral – 5 ~ Pertaining to the sides, or positions of veins
latex – The milky or colored juice of some plants.
leaf – 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 14 ~ A foliar organ associated with an axillary bud.
leaf scar – 7 ~ Marking on a twig formed from the abscission of the leaf, usually revealing the pattern of vascular bundles in the leaf trace.
leaf trace – A strand of vascular tissue that runs between the leaf and the stem.
leaflet – 2, 7 ~ Leaf-like segment of a compound leaf, not associated with an axillary bud.
legume – 13 ~ A fruit in the Fabaceae and related families, produced from a 1-celled ovary, and typically splitting along both sutures, as in the pod of a pea.
lemma – 14 ~ The lowermost of the two scales that form the floret in most grass spikelets; compare with palea.
lenticel – 7 ~ A corky spot on young bark that corresponds functionally to a stomate on a leaf.
lenticular – Lens-shaped; 2-sided with the faces convex.
lepidote – 6 ~ Beset with small scurfy scales.
ligneous – With lignin.
lignin – A complex polymerized carbohydrate that fills and stiffens the walls of xylem cells in woody plants.
ligulate – 12 ~ Bearing a ligule.
ligule – 8, 11, 14 ~ In the Asteraceae, pertaining to the dilated or flattened, spreading limb of a ray floret; in other families, such as the Poaceae, an extension, often scarious or hairy, at the summit of a leaf sheath.
limb – 12 ~ The expanded portion of a corolla above the throat; the expanded portion of any petal.
linear – 3, 8 ~ Long and narrow, with nearly or quite parallel margins.
lip – 11 ~ Referring to either the upper or lower lip of a bilabiate corolla; the principal, seemingly lower petal in the Orchidaceae.
lobate – Possessing lobes or with a lobed margin.
lobe – 4, 10 ~ Any segment or division, particularly if blunt, but more developed than a tooth.
lobulate – A diminutive of lobate.
locular – Relating to locules.
locule – 13 ~ A discriminate cavity or space within an ovary, fruit, or theca.
loculicidal – 13 ~ Pertaining to a capsule that dehisces along the dorsal suture of each locule.
locus – Place; location.
loment – 13 ~ Specifically applied to the series of 1-seeded articles of a fruit in the genera Desmodium and Hylodesmum.
lustrous ~ Shiny.
lyrate – 3 ~ Pinnately lobed, the terminal one typically noticeably larger than the reduced lateral ones.

M
macula – A spot.
maculate – Spotted.
malodorous – Foul-smelling; fetid.
malpighian – Describing a hair attached at its middle and typically appressed to a surface.
mariescent – Withering but persistent, usually remaining green.
margin – 4 ~ Generally, the edge of a planar organ.
marginal – 10 ~ With regard to the margin.
martly – Describing calcium carbonate accretions.
mealy – With the consistency of meal; farinose.
megasporophyll – Bract that subtends a megasporophyll.
megaspore – 8 ~ The larger type of haploid spore (when two sizes are present) that gives rise to the female gametophyte; see microspore.
membranaceous – 14 ~ Membrane-like; very thin, flimsy, and often more or less translucent.
mericarp – The discriminate unit of a schizocarp.
meristem – Undifferentiated tissue from which differentiated cells arise.
-merous – A suffix that pertains to the discriminate portions into which a floral organ or series of organs can be divided; for example, a flower with 5 sepals, 10 petals, and 20 stamens can be said to be 5-merous.
mesic – Describing a microclimate or plant community in which there is a moderate amount of moisture.
mesophytic – Referring to plants or plant communities that grow under mesic conditions.
microclimate – A local atmospheric or edaphic condition that differs from the larger ambient one.
microspore – 8 ~ Haploid spore that gives rise to the male gametophyte, generally smaller than the megaspore.
microsporophyll – Bract that subtends a microspore.
midnerve – 5 ~ the central or principal vein of a foliar or bracteal organ, or a sepal or petal.
midrib – Midnerve.
midvein – 5, 7 ~ Midnerve.
milky – Like a thick white juice or latex.
minerotrophic – Describing a water source characterized by the presence of calcium and magnesium carbonates.
mollis epipedon – A term used to describe a dark-hued surface horizon of a mineral soil that is high in organic matter and cation exchange capacity.
Mollisol – A taxonomic order of dark-hued, usually base-rich, organic-rich mineral soils typically formed under deep-rooted grassland or prairie vegetation.
monadelphous – Describing stamens united by their filaments into a tube or column.
moniliform – Appearing as a string of beads; slenderly cylindrical, with contractions at regular intervals.
monocot – Angiosperm having only one cotyledon.
monoecious – Pertaining to plants, individuals of which bear both staminate and pistillate flowers, but not necessarily perfect flowers.
monothecal – Describing an anther with one theca (e.g., Büchnera).
mottled – Covered in part with spots or blotches of a different color than the surrounding surface area.
muck – An organic soil material or highly decomposed peat, the sapric component, that accumulates in wet, anaerobic environments; see also Histosol.
muco – An abruptly shortened tip.
mucronate – 5 ~ With a short, abrupt tip.
mucronulate – Minutely mucronate.
muricate – 6 ~ Beset with hard, often sharp, tubercles.
mycoheterotrophic – An achlorophyllous plant that obtains all of its nutrients from a symbiotic association with a mycorrhizal fungus, the latter of which receives its nutrition from an autotrophic vascular plant.
mycorrhizal – Describing the symbiotic relationship between a root-inhabiting fungus and a mycotrophic plant.
mycotrophic – A plant that acquires, at least a portion of its carbon, water, and/or nutrients, through a symbiotic association with a fungus.
myrmecochory – Dispersal of seeds by ants.

N
n.d. – Abbreviation for no date.
naked bud – 7 ~ A bud formed without scales.
native – Inherent and original to a specific geographic area prior to European settlement.

nectar – A sweet substance typically produced by flowers.

nectar gland – 11 – Gland that produces nectar; nectary.

nectary – 11 – A gland or glandular area that bears a fluid or nectar.

nectariferous – Bearing nectar.

nerve – Vein.

nigrescent – Becoming black or blackish.

donning – Hanging on a bent peduncle or pedicel.

dode – 14 – The point along a stem that gives rise to leaves, branches, or inflorescences.

nodose – With knotty or knobby swellings.

nodulose – Provided with little knots or knobs.

nototribic – Pollen deposition on the dorsum of an insect when it visits a flower.

nut – 13 – A hard, indehiscent, 1-seeded fruit, typically with an outer shell.

nutlet – 13 – A small nut or achene, typically 1-seeded, usually lacking a specific outer shell.

O

O horizon – An organic soil horizon, usually thin in Alfisols, at or near the surface.

obconic – Inversely conical, with the narrow end down.

obcordate – 3 – In reference to leaves or petals that are heart-shaped at the tip and taper to a wedge-shaped base.

oblanceolate – 3 – Several times longer than wide, but widest beyond the middle and tapering to the base.

oblige – Restricted to.

oblique – 5 – Slanting or unequally sided.

oblong – 3 – Several times longer than wide and with nearly or quite parallel sides.

obovate – 3 – Inversely ovate, broadest beyond the middle.

obovoid – Having the form of an egg or broadest distally.

obsolete – Rudimentary; not evident.

obtuse – 5 – Blunt or rounded.

ochroleucous – Yellowish-white.

ocrea – 7 – In the Polygonaceae, the sheathing stipules at the nodes along the stems.

ocreolae – 7 – In the Polygonaceae, the sheathing stipules at the nodes of the inflorescence.

odd-pinnate – 2 – Pinnately compound with a terminal leaflet.

odoriferous – Smelly.

offshoot – Proliferous branch from a stem.

oligolectic – Used in relation to bees who restrict their foraging of nectar and/or pollen to a narrow array of related plants; compare to polylectic.

olivaceous – Having an olive-green color.

opaque – Dull; neither shiny nor translucent.

opposite – 2 – Arranged in pairs along an axis, not alternate.

orbicular – 3 – Circular in outline.

organic matter – Organic compounds derived from dead plants and animals that in aggregate has high water holding capacity and nutrient retention in soils.

outwash – Water-sorted sediments, such as sand and gravel.

oval – 3 – Broadly elliptical.

ovary – 10, 11, 14 – That portion of the pistil that contains the ovules.

ovate – 3 – Egg-shaped; broadest below the middle.

ovoid – A solid with an ovate outline.
ovule – The body that, after fertilization, becomes the seed.

P
palate – 12 ~ A rounded projection on the lower lip of some irregular corollas, often closing the throat.
palate – A receptacular bract subtending a floret in the Asteraceae; see also chaff.
palea – 14 ~ The uppermost of the two scales that form the floret in a grass spikelet (often obscure or hidden within the lemma).
palmate – 2, 5 ~ Radiately lobed or divided, the axes of the individual segments originating at or near a common point.
paludal – Pertaining to marsh plants and communities.
pandurate – Radiately lobed or divided, the axes of the individual segments originating at or near a common point.
panicle – 9, 14 ~ An inflorescence composed of two or more racemes or racemiform corymbs.
paniculate – Bearing panicles.
paniculiform – Having the general form of a panicle.
pannate – 6 ~ Pannose.
pannose – 6 ~ Appearing felt-like.
papilionaceous – 11, 12 ~ Butterfly-like; in the Fabaceae particularly, having a corolla composed of a standard, keel, and two wings.
papilla – A single wart or tubercle.
papillate – Bearing papillae; warty or tuberculate.
papillose – Papillate.
pappus – 11, 13 ~ A modification of the calyx, particularly in the Asteraceae, such that the segments are manifest as a low crown, a ring of scales, or fine hairs or bristles.
papule – A single wart or tubercle.
parallel – 5 ~ Running side-by-side, from the base to the tip; in reference to the leaves of monocots where, instead of a network, the observable veins are parallel to one another and the midrib.
parasite – An organism that derives nutrients or resources from another organism (host), sometimes to the detriment of the latter.
parcisfrond – Evocative of a primocane, a leafy, sterile shoot produced from a floricanne.
parenchymatous – Describing tissue composed of thin-walled cells.
parietal – 10 ~ Said of ovules borne on the inner walls of the ovary.
patina – A fine crust or film.
peat – An organic soil material that consists of partially decomposed organic residues that are identifiable, such as plant parts (e.g., stems and leaves; the fibric component), which material accumulates in wet, anaerobic environments; see Histosols and compare with muck.
pectinate – Fringed or dissected in comb-like fashion.
pedicel – 11, 14 ~ The stalk of a single flower in a cluster.
padicellate – 9 ~ Having a pedicel.
pedicellate – 8 ~ Characteristically referring to the second internode below a flower, but generally applied to any primary stalk that supports a head or flower cluster; scape.
pedunculate – Having a peduncle.
pellucid – Clear; transparent.
peltate – 5, 8 ~ A flat or flattish structure borne on a stalk that is attached to the lower surface rather than the base or the margin.
pendulous – Drooping.
pepo – 13 ~ The specialized fruit in the gourd family.
perennial – Pertaining to a herbaceous plant that lives for more than two years through the production of subterranean rhizomes, basal offsets, bulbs, or corms.

perfect – Pertaining to flowers that contain both stamens and pistils.

perfoliate – A condition in which the stem appears to pass through the leaf.

perianth – Pertaining to the floral series or sepals, petals, or both.

pericarp – The wall of the mature ovary.

perigynium – In reference to the often inflated sac that 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.

petiole – The stalk of a leaf.

petiolate – Having a petiole.

petiolule – The stalk of a leaflet.

phyllary – An involucral bract in the Asteraceae.

phyllodium – A somewhat dilated leaf stalk having the form of and serving as a leaf blade.

phytotelmata (phytotelma, sing.) – The plural form for water-filled cavities of plants that may provide a habitat for aquatic organisms.

pilose – With long soft hairs.

pin – A heterostylic corolla that has a long style and short stamens.

pinna – One of the principal divisions in a pinnate or pinnately compound leaf or frond.

pinnate – In reference to a foliar structure that is compound or deeply divided, the principal divisions arranged along each side of a common axis.

pinnatifid – Incompletely pinnate, the clefts between the segments not reaching the axis.

pinnule – One of the principal divisions of a pinna.

pistil – The organ that comprises the ovary, style (when present), and stigma; gynoecium.

pistillate – In reference to plants, inflorescences, or flowers that bear pistils, usually those that bear no stamens; compare with staminate.

pistillole – A sterile pistil within a corolla or floret that is staminate.

pith – The parenchymatous, often spongy or porous central portions of stems and branchlets.

pitted – Beset with depressions or pits.

placenta – The internal portion of the ovary that bears the ovules.

plait – In reference to the folded, often fringed membrane between the corolla lobes, such as in some genera of the Gentianaceae.

plano-convex – Similar to lenticular, but with one of the faces flat instead of convex.

pli/ate – Folded into plait/s, usually lengthwise, thus similar to corrugated.

plumose – Pinnately branched hairs.

pneumatophore – An emersed root that enables gas exchange in the genus Taxodium.

pods – Certain seed-bearing capsules.

pollen – Dust-sized microspores borne from anthers.

pollinarium – The unit comprising the pollinia, viscidium or corpusculum, and stipes or translator arms in the Orchidaceae and Asclepiadaceae, respectively (pl. pollinia).

pollination – Transfer of pollen from anther to stigma.

pollinium – A coherent mass of pollen, such as in the Orchidaceae and Asclepiadaceae (pl. pollinia).
polygamous – Typically in reference to a plant that contains both *perfect* and *imperfect flowers*.

polylectic – Used in relation to bees who forage nectar and/or pollen from a diverse array of flowering plants; compare with *oligolectic*.

polymorphic – Having a number of various forms.

polyploid – With more than a single set of chromosomes.

*pome* – 13 A *fleshy fruit*, such as an apple, formed from an *inferior ovary* with several *locules*.

*pore* – A small opening in an organ.

*poricidal* – 13 *Dehiscence* by means of *pores*.

*posterior* – Opposite of *anterior*.

*prickle* – 7 A sharp *bristle* or *spine*, often with a *dilated* base.

*primary vein* – 7 *The principal vein* from which all others branch.

*primocane* – In *Rubus*, the sterile *cane* of the first year.

*prismatic* – The shape of a prism; angulate with flat sides.

*proboscis* – An elongate mouthpart of some insects, such as butterflies and moths, that is used to suck fluid (pl. *proboscides*).

*process* – A projection or outgrowth from some parent tissue.

*procumbent* – 1 Trailing or reclining, but not rooting at the *nodes*.

*propagule* – A *vegetative* portion of a plant that can produce a new plant; an organ of *asexual* reproduction.

*prostrate* – Lying flat upon a substrate.

*protandrous* – Condition where the *anthers* *dehisce* before the *stigma(s)* is receptive; compare with *protogynous*.

*protogynous* – Condition where the *stigma(s)* is receptive before the *anthers* *dehisce*; compare with *protandrous*.

*proximal* – 2 At or near the base, the lowermost one to few.

*proximate* – Near.

*pruinose* – Frosty, as if covered with white powder.

*pterotribic* – *Pollen* deposition on the wings of an insect when it visits a *flower*.

*puberulent* – 6 Minutely hairy.

*pubescent* – 6 *Hairy*.

*pulverulent* – 6 Appearing powdery or mealy.

*pulvinus* – 14 A swelling or enlargement, typically in the *axil* of a *branch* in a grass *inflorescence*.

*punctate* – Dotted, particularly with dark or translucent spots 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*.

*pyrene* – The *nutlet* of a *drupe*, such as the *seed* and bony *endocarp* of a cherry.

*pyriform* – Pear-shaped.

*quadrangular* – 7 Four-angled.

*quadrate* – Four-sided.

*quickly* – Abruptly.

*raceme* – 9 A simple *inflorescence* in which the *flowers* are *pedicellate* and arranged singly along an elongate *axis*.

*racemiform* – Resembling a *raceme* or *raceme-like*. 
racemose – Having flowers in a raceme.
rachilla – 8, 14 ~ A secondary rachis.
rachis – 2, 8 ~ The principal axis of an inflorescence or compound leaf (pl. rachides).
radial – 10 ~ With reference to the disposition of perianth parts in an actinomorphic flower.
radiate – 12 ~ Spreading in all directions.
ranked – Ordered in a series, usually combined with a number, such as 2-ranked.
ray – In the Asteraceae, a strap-shaped ligulate flower; in the Apiaceae, one of the principal branches of an umbel.
ray floret – 11 ~ Flowers in the Asteraceae that bear ligulate rays.
raylet – A secondary ray in an umbel.
receptacle – An enlarged or elongated end of a pedicel, peduncle, or scape on which some or all of the flower parts are borne.
receptacular – In reference to the receptacle.
recurved – Directed backward or downward.
reflexed – Abruptly turned or bent downward.
regular – Radially symmetrical and capable of being bisected into two or more similar planes, actinomorphic; compare with irregular.
remontant – The blooming of a plant more than once during a growing season.
remote – Borne distantly or relatively far apart.
reniform – 3, 8 ~ Kidney-shaped.
repand – Typically with a shallowly, unevenly lobed or sinuate margin.
repent – 1 ~ Prostrate, creeping along the ground, typically applied to plants that root at the nodes.
resin – A thick, often sticky sap.
resiniferous – Bearing resin.
resinous – 6 ~ Appearing to secrete or exude resin.
resupinate – Literally, oriented upside down.
reticulate – 5 ~ Forming a network of interconnecting veins.
retrorse – 6 ~ Directed backward or downward.
retuse – 5 ~ Notched slightly, usually at an obtuse apex.
revolute – 4 ~ Describing a leaf or sepal margin rolled on the abaxial surface toward the central axis; compare with involute.
rhipidiate – In the form of a rhipidium.
rhipidium – Cymiform or subumbellate fan-shaped inflorescence.
rhizomatous – Bearing rhizomes.
rhizome – 1 ~ An underground stem, with nodes and short to elongate internodes.
rhombic – A four-sided, typically obliquely angled shape.
riparian – Associated with rivers and streams.
root – A usually subterranean portion of a plant, without nodes, buds, or leaves.
rooting – Developing roots.
roseate – Rose-colored.
rosette – In reference to a dense cluster of basal leaves, particularly those of winter annuals or biennials, or to scapose plants in which all the leaves are basal.
rostellum – A projecting portion of the column in some orchid flowers.
rostrate – Beaked.
rosulate – Radially spreading.
rotate – 12 ~ Pertaining to corollas that are more or less flat and circular or wheel-like in general outline.
rounded – 5 ~ Pertaining to a leaf base with arcuate margins.
ruderal – Associated with waste areas.
rudimentary – Poorly developed.
rufescent – Somewhat reddish-brown.
rufous – Reddish-brown.
rugose – Wrinkled.
rugulose – Minutely wrinkled.
runcinate – 3 ~ Coarsely and sharply cut or incised, the principal divisions typically directed backward, such as the leaves of Taraxacum.
runner – Proliferating from elongate rhizomes or stolons.

S
s.n. – A Latin abbreviation for sine numero, meaning without a collection number.
sac – A pouch or bladder.
saccate – 12 ~ Having a sac, usually pertaining to a perianth segment.
sagittate – 3, 5 ~ Shaped like an arrowhead, usually in reference to leaves in which two basal lobes are directed backward or downward.
saline – Salty.
saltatory – Dancing.
salverform – 12 ~ Having a slender tube abruptly expanded into a flat limb, such as in Phlox flowers.
samara – 13 ~ An indehiscent, winged fruit.
sarmentose – 1 ~ Producing slender, often prostrate stolons or creeping stems.
scabrous – Minutely scabrous.
scabrid – Slightly roughened.
scabridulous – Minutely scabrous.
scabrous – 6 ~ Rough; harsh to the touch.
scale – 8, 14 ~ Generally a thin, sometimes scarious, much reduced leaf, bract, bractlet, or perianth segment.
scaled – Describing margins marked by a series of circular or arc-shaped teeth or projections.
scandent – Climbing.
scape – 9 ~ A leafless flowering stem or one that possesses minute scale-like leaves.
scapose – Having or appearing to have a scape.
scarious – Typically thin, dry, papery, or membranaceous; usually not green.
schizocarp – 13 ~ A pericarp that splits into two to several 1-seeded portions, termed mericarps or nutlets.
scoa – A brush-like cluster of hairs that carries pollen on a female bee; may be on a leg (hind tibia) or ventral portion of the abdomen or gaster of the bee (pl. scopae).
scorpioid – 9 ~ In reference to an inflorescence that is coiled from the tip downward, after the fashion of a scorpion's tail.
scretiform – Shaped like a pouch.
scurfy – 6 ~ Bearing mealy or bran-like granules or flakes.
secund – 9 ~ Arranged or oriented along one side of an axis, typically in reference to the flowers of an inflorescence.
seed – 13 ~ A ripened ovule.
segment – One of the units of a perianth or calyx, or of a leaf that is divided but not fully compound.
senescent – Growing old; aging.
sensu lato – Latin for in the broad sense (s.l.).
sensu stricto – Latin for in the strict sense (s.s.).
sepal – 10, 11 ~ A segment of the calyx.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sepaloid</td>
<td>With the texture of or resembling a sepal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>separate</td>
<td>Usually referenced to perianth segments that are free all the way to the base.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>septe</td>
<td>With partitions or septa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>septical</td>
<td>In reference to capsules that dehisc through the septa between the locules.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>septum</td>
<td>Any kind of partition or cross wall (pl. septa).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sericeous</td>
<td>With silky hairs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serotinous</td>
<td>Produced late in the season; late to open; having cones that remain closed long after the seeds are ripe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serrate</td>
<td>With sharp, typically forward-pointing teeth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serrulate</td>
<td>Minutely serrate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sessile</td>
<td>Without a stalk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seta</td>
<td>A bristle (pl. setae).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>setaceous</td>
<td>Bristle-like.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>setiform</td>
<td>Having the shape of a bristle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>setose</td>
<td>Beset with bristles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>setulose</td>
<td>Having minute bristles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sexual</td>
<td>In reference to plants with fertile pollen or ovules or both.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sheath</td>
<td>A tubular structure effected by the coming together of leaf margins around the stem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shoot</td>
<td>New plant growth, usually from the axis of rhizomes or stems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shrub</td>
<td>A woody plant, typically smaller than a tree and characterized by the habit of branching from the base, usually with several main stems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>siliic</td>
<td>A short siliquie.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>silique</td>
<td>A specialized capsule in which a frame-like placenta or partition separates the two valves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>simple</td>
<td>Not compound, a term usually applying to leaves; also, in reference to a stem without branches or modifications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sinuate</td>
<td>Wavy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sinus</td>
<td>A cleft or dissection between two lobes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s.l.</td>
<td>Latin for sensu lato, in the broad sense.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soboliferous</td>
<td>Producing shoots or suckers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sordid</td>
<td>Appearing dirty or definitely not white.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soro</td>
<td>A cluster or discrete aggregation of sporangia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spadix</td>
<td>An inflorescence spike typified by a fleshy axis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spathe</td>
<td>A foliaceous bract-like or sheath-like structure enclosing or partly enclosing an inflorescence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spatulate</td>
<td>Strongly dilated or expanded distally; spoon-shaped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sphagnaceous</td>
<td>Of or related to Sphagnum moss.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spicate</td>
<td>Arranged in or resembling a spike.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spiciform</td>
<td>Spike-like.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spicule</td>
<td>A hard point or protuberance, typically on a leaf margin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spike</td>
<td>An unbranched inflorescence in which the flowers are sessile or subsessile along an elongate axis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spikelet</td>
<td>A secondary or small spike; specifically, in the Poaceae, the unit composed of one or two glumes that subtend one to several sets of lemma and palea combinations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spine</td>
<td>A sharp, stiff, often slender process; a thorn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spinescent</td>
<td>Ending in a spine or bearing a spine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spinose</td>
<td>Having spines; spiny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spinulose</td>
<td>With minute spines or hardened bristles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spontaneous</td>
<td>Growing “wild,” without cultivation or purposeful effort on the part of people.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
sporangium – 8 ~ Spore-producing structure.
spore – An asexual, typically 1-locular, haploid cell.
sporocarp – The “fruit” case of certain flowerless plants that produce spores.
sporephyll – 8 ~ A foliar organ upon which sporangia are produced.
spur – 7, 11, 12 ~ 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 segments, involucral bracts, or phyllaries that bend outward or downward at the tip.
s.s – Latin for sensu stricto, in the narrow sense.
stalk – The “stem” of any organ such as the petiole, peduncle, pedicel, filament, or stipe.
stamen – 10 ~ Pollen-producing unit of the androecium composed of an anther and filament.
staminal – In reference to stamens.
staminal column – 11 ~ Pertains to the tube of connate stamens that enclose the style.
staminate – 11, 14 ~ In reference to plants, inflorescences, or flowers that bear stamens, usually those that bear no pistils; compare with pistillate.
staminode – 11 ~ A sterile stamen or any structure lacking a functional anther but corresponding to a stamen.
standard – The upper, dilated or expanded petal in a papilionaceous flower; banner.
stellate – 6 ~ Star-shaped, usually in reference to hairs that are forked or branched into two to several rays attached at the center.
stem – 7 ~ The main axis or principal shoot of a plant, usually bearing leaf axils and complex vascular bundles.
sterile – 8 ~ Incapable of reproducing sexually; also in reference to soil that is poor in nutrients.
sternotribic – Pollen deposition on the sterna or underside of an insect when it visits a flower.
stigma – 10, 11, 14 ~ That part of pistil receptive to pollen.
stipe – 8 ~ A small connecting stalk; sometimes a small stalk that elevates the pistil or flower above the receptacle or pedicel; the “petiole” of a fern frond or of the genus Lemna.
stipel – An appendage of a leaflet that is analogous to a stipule.
stipellate – Stipule-like organs subtending leaflets.
stipitate – Stalked, as defined under stipe.
stipular – 7 ~ In reference to stipules.
stipulate – With stipules.
stipule – 7 ~ An appendage or bract-like foliar organ situated at either side of a leaf axil.
stipuliform – Like a stipule.
stolon – Horizontal or prostrate stems, usually running above the ground and often rooting at the nodes.
stoloniferous – 1 ~ Bearing stolons.
stomatal – In reference to the stomates, minute orifices in a leaf epidermis, through which gaseous exchange occurs.
stomium – A furrow or groove along a theca where dehiscence or the rupturing of pollen takes place (pl. stomia).
stone – A single seed enclosed by a hard endocarp.
stramineous – Tan or straw-colored.
striate – Beset with fine, longitudinal lines or grooves.
strigillose – Minutely strigose.
strigose – 6 ~ Pubescent with appressed hairs.
strigulose – Minutely strigose.
strobile – An inflorescence, often indurated or woody and characterized by a series of imbricated scales; a cone.
strobilus – 8 ~ A strobile.
strumose – A cushion-like swelling, such as the bulbous, expanded base of some hairs of the genus Helianthus.
style – 10, 11 ~ A usually slender stalk connecting the stigma with an ovary.
stylodium – An expansion of the base of the style.
sub– Prefix meaning nearly, almost, or less than.
suberose – With a corky texture.
submersed – Below the surface of the water.
subtend – In reference to any structure situated at the base of another structure.
subterranean – Below the surface of the ground.
subulate – Awl-shaped.
subulus – A small point or short bristle.
succulent – Very fleshy and juicy.
suckers – Vegetative shoots from a proliferating root system.
suffruticose – Nearly or slightly woody.
sulcate – Grooved or furrowed lengthwise.
summit – At the very top or at the distal end.
superior 10, 11 ~ In reference to an organ that stands above or appears over or higher than another similar organ; in reference to an ovary that is free from the perianth.
supra-axillary 9 ~ Borne above an axil.
suture – A seam or union between partitions; a line of dehiscence as in a follicle or capsule.
symbiotic – A relationship between two organisms in which at least one is beneficial to the other, but neither suffers from the relationship.
symmetrical – Regular as to the number of its parts and their shape.
sympatric – Occupying the same region.
sympetalous 11 ~ With the petals united, at least at the base.
sympodial – A determinate inflorescence that simulates an indeterminate inflorescence, as if a scorpionid cyme were straight rather than circinate; 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 mulberries.

T
taproot 1 ~ The primary, central, downwardly growing root.
taxon – A discrete taxonomic unit (pl. taxa).
tendril 7 ~ A slender, often ultimately coiled, foliar or branch-like organ that clings to a support.
tepal 12 ~ In reference to a unit of the perianth when the sepals and petals resemble each other.
terete 3 ~ Circular in cross section.
terminal – Positioned at the summit.
terminus – End.
ternate 2 ~ Three-parted; with three principal divisions or occurring in threes.
terrestrial – Referring to plants that live on land.
tetragonal – Four-angled.
tetrahedral – With four triangular faces.
tetraploid – With two complete sets of chromosomes.
thallus – A unit of green shoot or plant body.
theca 10 ~ Usually paired, a lobe of an anther that possesses two sporangia or locules (pl. thecae).
thorax – The portion of an insect that bears the wings and legs.
thorn 7 ~ A reduced, sharply pointed branch or modified leaf, or remnant of such that originates below the epidermis; similar to spine.
throat – 12 ~ The internal portion of a tubular corolla.
thrum – A heterostylic corolla with the style much shorter than the stamens.
thyrse – 9 ~ A cylindrical or ovoid, often compact panicle.
thysiform – Thryse-like.
thyrsoïd – Resembling a thyrse.
till – Unsorted drift deposited by glacial ice that consists of varying proportions of clay, silt, sand, cobbles, and/or boulders.
tomentose – 6 ~ Densely pubescent with matted hairs.
tomentulose – Finely tomentose.
tomentum – Closely matted or with tangled hairs.
tooth – A sharp process at the edge of a tissue (pl. teeth).
toothed – With 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.
transparent – Nearly uninhibited visibility through a tissue.
transverse – Running or lying across something.
tree – 1 ~ A woody plant, usually higher than a shrub, and characterized as being unbranched at the base and having a strong central leader.
tri– A prefix meaning three.
trichome – 6 ~ A stiff, often multicellular hair.
trident – With three segments or lobes, usually having a common origin.
tridentate – Three-toothed.
trifid – Three-cleft.
trifoliate – With three leaves per node.
trifoliolate – 2 ~ With three leaflets per petiole.
trigénous – Three-sided.
trinomial – A taxonomic entity with a rank below species.
tristigmatic – Bearing three stigmas.
truncate – 5 ~ Ending abruptly, as if cut straight across.
tube – Usually referring to the connate parts of either the calyx or the corolla.
tuber – 1 ~ In reference to any thick, fleshy enlargement of a rhizome or stolon.
tubercle – 14 ~ A small tuber-like, often indurated process or protuberance.
tuberculate – 6 ~ Having tubercles.
tuberiferous – Bearing tubers.
tuberose – With a tuber.
tuberous – Having the character of a tuber; tuber-like in appearance.
tubular – 12 ~ Tube-like.
tufted – Cespitose.
tumescence – A tumid condition.
tumescent – Swollen or appearing to become so.
tumid – Swollen.
turbinate – Top-shaped; inversely conical.
turgid – Swollen or tightly drawn; often in reference to a membrane or covering expanded by pressure from within.
tussock – A cespitose growth of densely aggregated roots or rhizomes.
twig – 7 ~ The shoot of a woody plant that represents the growth of the current season and is characterized basally by the circumferential terminal bud scar of the previous year.

U

ultimate – Last; final.
umbel – 9 ~ An inflorescence in which the rays all originate from a common point.
umbellate – With umbels.
umbellet – A secondary umbel.
umbelliform – Resembling an umbel.
umbilicate – Indented or depressed near the center.
umbo – A swollen expression on an otherwise flat surface.
uncinate – 6 ~ Hooked or bent at the tip.
undivided – 2 ~ Without leaflets or significant lobes.
undulate – With a sinuate or wavy, up and down surface or margin.
unisexual – Of one sex, either staminate or pistillate.
united – 10 ~ Connected, generally in reference to the margins of neighboring perianth parts.
urecelate – 12 ~ Urn-shaped.
utricle – A bladder-like, usually indehiscent, 1-seeded fruit.

V

valvate – 7 ~ Opening by valves; meeting at the edges but 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 – In reference to veins or conducting vessels.
vascular bundle – 7 ~ A strand or unit of conducting vessels, usually including xylem cells on the inside, phloem on the outside.
vegetative – In reference to plant parts that are not involved in sexual reproduction.
vein – A thread of fibro-vascular tissue in a leaf or other organ; compare with nerve.
veinlet – A small, secondary vein.
velutinous – 6 ~ Pubescent with velvety hairs.
venation – The arrangement or nature of the veins.
ventral – In reference to the inner or adaxial face of an organ; opposite of dorsal.
ventricose – Inflated, swollen, or distended.
vermiculate – Appearing wormy.
vermiform – Worm-shaped.
versatile – 14 ~ Attached at or near the middle, such as some anthers, and turning freely on its support, the filament.
verticil – 9 ~ A whorl, particularly of flowers in the axils in the Lamiaceae.
verticillate – Having verticils.
vespicochory – Seed dispersal by vespid wasps; see the genus Trillium.
vestigial – Rudimentary.
villos – 6 ~ With long, straight, soft hairs.
vine – A plant that climbs or sprawls by means of twining or tendrils; a plant that trails or creeps extensively along the ground.
vinaceous – Wine-colored.
**virgate** – Slenderly straight and upright; wand-shaped.

**viscid** – Glutinous, sticky, glandular.

**viscidium** – The sticky pad-like structure in orchids that is a part of a pollinium and facilitates transfer to an insect; see also rostellum.

**vivipary** – Germinating while still on the plant, as in certain bulbs and transformations of floral tissues.

**W**

**warty** – Coarsely papillose.

**water sprout** – Sucker-like, fast-growing shoot from the base of a tree or latent buds on older branches.

**whorled** – 2 ~ An arrangement of three or more organs at a single node.

**wing** – 11 ~ One of the two lateral petals of a papilionaceous flower.

**winged** – 7 ~ In general, bearing any thin, expanded portion of an organ; sometimes referring to the well-developed, exaggerated decurrence of a leaf base.

**wiry** – Said of a stem that is slender but quite stiff.

**woody** – In reference to plants that produce lignin each year.

**woolly** – With long, soft, matted or loosely tangled hairs.

**X**

**xenogamy** – Cross-pollination.

**Z**

**zygomorphic** – 10 ~ In reference to a calyx or corolla that is bilaterally symmetrical, capable of being divided into two equal halves along one plane only.