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# Glossary

**Achene** – a small, dry, thin-walled one-seeded fruit that does not split open at maturity

**Acuminate** – gradually tapering to a point

**Acute** – having a sharp point

**Adnate** – fused to a different part

**Adventitious** – a root arising from an area other than the primary root system

**Alternate (leaves)** – arranged singly along stem, not paired or whorled

**Annual** – a plant having a one-year or one season life cycle

**Anther** – the sac-like, pollen producing part of the stamen

**Apex** – the tip of an organ

**Apiculate** – having a short, sharp point

**Appressed** – lying close and flat against

**Arachnoid** – hairs resembling the interlaced filaments of a spiderweb

**Attenuate** – gradually narrowing

**Auricle** – small ear-like appendage

**Awn** – a bristle-like appendage

**Axil** – angle formed by the upper side of a leaf and the stem from which it grows

**Axillary** – in the axil

**Baculiform** – rod-shaped

**Basal** – located at the base

**Base** – part of attachment of any organ

**Berry** – a fleshy, indehiscent fruit containing one to many seeds

**Biennial** – a plant with a two-year life cycle, producing vegetative growth the first year and flowering in the second

**Bipinnate** – pinnate, with the primary leaflets also pinnate

**Bract** – modified, scale-like leaves, situated at the base of a flower, fruit or inflorescence

**Branchlet** – a small branch, a twig

**Bud** – an underdeveloped leaf, flower or shoot

**Bud scale** – a scale enclosing or partially enclosing a bud

**Bullate** – having surface blisters

**Caducous** – falling off, shedding early

**Calyx** – collective term for the sepals of a flower

**Campanulate** – bell-shaped

**Canopy** – the uppermost layer of a forest, formed by the crowns of trees

**Capitate** – growing in heads, as flowers in the Compositae

**Capsule** – a dry, thin-walled fruit containing 2 or more seeds opening along grooved lines at maturity

**Caryopsis** – a dry, single-seeded indehiscent fruit characteristic of cereal grasses

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**Catkin** – a drooping cluster of reduced, stalkless unisexual flowers without petals

**Caudate** – having a tail-like appendage

**Ciliate** – fringed by long hairs

**Clavate** – club-shaped

**Concolorous** – having a uniform color

**Cordate** – heart-shaped

**Corolla** – collective term for the petals of a flower

**Corymb** – an indeterminate inflorescence with stalked flowers

**Crenate** – having small, rounded teeth

**Crown** – the mass of branches, twigs and leaves forming the top of tree

**Crown gall** – a tumor-like growth caused by a bacterial disease

**Culm** – the jointed, flowering stem of grasses

**Cuneate** – wedge-shaped

**Cupuliform** – cup-shaped

**Cyathium** – a type of inflorescence found in the genus *Euphorbia*

**Cylindroid** – cylinder-shaped

**Cyme** – a branching inflorescence with a flower at the end of each branch

**Deciduous** – seasonal shedding of leaves; shedding of certain plant parts after a period of growth

**Decumbent** – growing along the ground with

stem tips upright

**Dehiscent** – opening naturally at maturity, as a fruit releasing seeds

**Dentate** – toothed

**Denticles** – small teeth

**Denticulate** – finely toothed

**Dichotomous** – dividing into two equal branches, forked

**Digitate** – palmate with narrow leaflets

**Dioecious** – having male and female flowers on separate plants

**Dissected** – deeply divided into segments

**Distal** – distant from the point of attachment

**Drupe** – a fleshy fruit, containing one or more seeds, each enclosed in a stony endocarp

**Emarginate** – distinctly notched at the apex

**Evergreen** – retaining leaves year around

**Filament** – a fine, thread-like structure

**Filiform** – thread-like

**Flexuous** – wavy

**Floret** – a small flower

**Fruit** – a mature ovary containing seeds

**Furcate** – forked

**Glabrescent** – becoming hairless

**Glabrous** – hairless

**Glandular** – having glands (structures secreting

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oil or nectar)

**Globose** – spherical or globe-shaped

**Glume** – a single bract at the base of a spikelet in the Gramineae

**Gram-positive** – a basic dye staining technique used to determine the genus of a bacterium; gram positive bacteria retain the dark violet color of the dye stain

**Hastate** – spearhead-shaped, with basal lobes directed outwards

**Herbaceous** – composed of soft, non-woody tissue

**Hirsute** – covered by coarse hairs

**Hypanthium** – a flower's cup-like base

**Imbricate** – overlapping scales

**Inflorescence** – the arrangement of flowers on a plant

**Internode** – the part of the stem between the nodes

**Involucre** – a whorl of bracts beneath an inflorescence

**Keel** – a sharp ridge formed by two fused lower petals

**Knot** – hard tissue formed where a branch grows from a tree trunk

**Labiate** – having lips

**Lanceolate** – lance-shaped, longer than wide with a pointed tip; widest at the middle or below

**Lateral** – at the side

**Leaf sheath** – lower part of the leaf stalk

enclosing the stem

**Leaflet** – single part of a compound leaf

**Legume** – dry fruit usually opening along two lines as in the Pea family

**Lemma** – in grasses, the lower of the two bracts that enclose the flower

**Lenticel** – a pore in the stem allowing gas exchange between the inside and outside of a plant

**Ligule** – strap-shaped projection at the base of a leaf blade

**Lobe** – rounded area of an organ

**Margin** – the outside edge

**Membranous** – thin, semi-transparent

**Mericarp** – a one-seeded section of a fruit that breaks free from a schizocarp at maturity

**Monoecious** – having both male and female flowers on the same plant

**Monophagous** - feeding on a single food source

**Mosaic** – a virus disease of plants causing mottling of leaves

**Mucronate** – ending abruptly in a sharp point

**Mycoplasma** – (more appropriately micoplasma-like organisms MLO) bacteria-like organisms that cause diseases in plants

**Nectariferous** – bearing nectar-producing glands

**Node** – place of leaf or branch attachment on the stem

**Nutlet** – a small nut; often refers to an achene

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or mericarp

**Oblanceolate** – broadest toward the tip and tapering to the stalk, inversely lanceolate

**Oblique** – unequal, one side of leaf extending below the opposite side

**Obovate** – broadest toward the tip and tapering to the stalk, inversely ovate

**Obtuse** – blunt

**Oceania** - a large group of islands in the south Pacific including Melanesia and Micronesia and Polynesia (and sometimes Australasia and the Malay Archipelago)

**Oligophagous** - feeding on a limited range of food sources

**Opposite** – occurring in pairs at the node, one leaf on each side of the stem

**Orbicular** – circular

**Ovate** – egg-shaped, pointed at the top and broader toward the base

**Palea** – upper two bracts enclosing a grass flower

**Palmate** – having 3 or more divisions or lobes, the appearance of fingers on an outspread hand

**Panicle** – a multi-branched inflorescence

**Pappus** – a bristle, scale or crown on seed-like fruits especially on thistles

**Pedicel** – the stalk of a single flower

**Pedicellate** – of a flower, stalked

**Peduncle** – the main flower stem or stalk holding an inflorescence

**Pendent** – pendulous, hanging down

**Perennial** – living for a number of years

**Perianth** – the calyx and corolla or the outer whorl

**Petal** – the basic unit of the corolla, usually flat, broad and brightly colored

**Petiole** – the stalk like part of a leaf that attaches it to the stem

**Petioule** – the stalk of a leaflet in a compound leaf

**Phloem** – vascular tissue that conducts sap

**Pilose** – softly hairy

**Pinna(e)** – primary leaflet of a compound leaf

**Pinnate** – having leaflets along the sides of a common central stalk, like a feather

**Pinnatifid** – pinnately lobed

**Pinnatipartite** – pinnately divided

**Pistil** – female organ of the flower consisting of the ovary, style and stigma

**Pistillate** – having one or more pistils, without functional stamens

**Pod** – a dry, many seeded fruit that opens at maturity found in members of the Leguminosae

**Polyphagous** - utilizing a wide variety of food sources

**Pome** – a fleshy fruit with a papery-walled inner chamber that contains the seeds

**Procumbent** – lying along the ground

**Puberulent** – minutely covered in soft hairs

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**Puberulous** – slightly hairy

**Pubescent** – downy, covered with hairs

**Pyrene** – the stone of a drupe, seed surrounded by a hard endocarp

**Raceme** – a long flower cluster with individual flowers on a small stalk attached to a larger, central stalk

**Rachilla** – in grasses, a secondary axis of an inflorescence

**Rachis** – the axis of a compound leaf or inflorescence

**Reniform** – kidney-shaped

**Repand** – having a slightly sinuate margin

**Retuse** – slightly notched at the apex

**Revolute** – rolled downwards at the margin

**Rhizome** – an underground, horizontal, root-like stem having buds, shoots and adventitious roots

**Rootstock** – underground stem or rhizome

**Sagittate** – arrowhead-shaped

**Samara** – a dry, indehiscent, winged fruit

**Scabrid** – somewhat rough to the touch because of tiny projections

**Scabrous** – rough to the touch

**Scaphoid** – boat-shaped

**Schizocarp** – a fruit which breaks up at maturity into two or more one-seeded portions (mericarps)

**Semi-decumbent** – nearly decumbent

**Sepal** – basic unit of the calyx

**Sericeous** – silky

**Serrate** – having a saw-tooth margin

**Sessile** – stalkless

**Shrub** – woody, low growing plant with branches

**Spathe** – bract or pair of bracts, enclosing the flower

**Spike** – elongated flower cluster, each flower of which is stalkless

**Spikelet** – a grass inflorescence where one or more flowers are subtended by a pair of glumes

**Spinose** – spiny

**Spinules** – small spines

**Stamen** – the male organ of the flower, made up of a filament topped by an anther

**Staminate** – a male flower with anthers and without pistils

**Stellate** – star-shaped

**Stigma** – tip of the pistil where the pollen lands

**Stipule** – small appendage, often leaf-like on either side of the petiole

**Stolon** – a stem growing along or under the ground, a runner

**Style** – the narrow part of the pistil that connects the ovary to the stigma

**Subcordate** – nearly heart-shaped, more or less

**Suborbicular** – nearly circular

**Subshrub** – a low growing shrub, may have

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herbaceous stems

growing from the same point

**Subtropical** - regions adjacent to the tropics ranging in latitude from 23.5 to 35 degrees

**Variety** - a rank designating plant groups which vary in flower color or some other way

**Sulcate** – grooved

**Ventral** – the side facing the axis

**Syncarp** – a fleshy, multiple fruit with fused carpels

**Verrucose** – covered with small warts, tuberculate

**Syconium** – a fleshy fruit with multiple seeds in a hollow compartment, as in the genus *Ficus*

**Villous** – covered with long, shaggy hairs

**Tannin** – an acidic, water soluble, bitter tasting substance

**Witches' broom** – an abnormal growth of dense twigs caused by mites, fungi or viruses

**Tendrill** – slender, coiling, thread-like structure that helps to secure climbing plants

**Terminal** – at the end or apex

**Thyrse** – mixed inflorescence with an indeterminate main axis and determinate secondary axes

**Tomentose** – densely covered with soft hairs

**Tomentum** – dense covering of hairs

**Trifoliate** – having three leaflets

**Trifurcate** – forked, divided into 3 equal branches

**Tropical** - occurring in the region extending to 23 degrees on either side of the equator

**Truncate** – appearing to be cut off at either the base or the apex

**Tuber** – an enlarged, fleshy underground stem serving as a storage organ

**Tuberculate** – bearing small, wart-like projections

**Twining** – encircling or coiling around

**Umbel** – flower cluster with flower stalks