

Achene - a dry, closed indehiscent fruit containing a single seed

Acuminate - tapering to a short or long point, usually with side of point pinched in

Alternate leaf arrangement - one leaf per node

Angiosperm - a flowering plant

Annual - plant growing from seed to fruit in one year and then dying

Anterior - front or upper

Anther - the pollen producing part of the stamen

Apical - at the tip

Aromatic - having a fragrant, sweet-smelling or spicy aroma

Attenuated - gradually narrowing to the base

Auriculate - shaped like an earlobe

Awl - a pointed tool used to mark surfaces or for punching small holes

Awn - a bristle or slender, stiff appendage, usually at the end of a stem

Axil - the angle between a leaf or stem and its axis

Axillary - on the side

Basal rosette (basal) - a cluster of leaves all arising at the base of the plant

Berry - a simple fleshy indehiscent fruit with one or more seeds

Biennial - a plant requiring two years to produce flowers and seed

Biodiversity - the variety of life in all its forms, levels and combinations, including species diversity, genetic diversity and ecological diversity

Bipinnately compound - twice pinnate (see pinnate)

Brackish water - water intermediate in salinity between seawater and fresh water

Bract - modified leaf at the base of a flower or inflorescence

Capsule - a dry dehiscent fruit that developed from two or more carpels, sometimes leathery

Carnivorous - acquires some of its nutrients from

invertebrates or other small animals such as worms or insects

Catkin - a spikelike flower cluster bearing either male or female flowers as in oaks and willows

Ciliate - with short, slender or fine hairs

Clasping - a leaf with base that entirely or partly wraps around or surrounds a stem

Composite - any member of the Asteraceae (sunflower family)

Compound leaf - leaf with the blade subdivided into two or more leaflets or pinnae

Cone-bearing plant - gymnosperm, such as the pine tree, that produces seed not enclosed by an ovary

Conifer - cone-bearing gymnosperm

Coniferous - cone-bearing plant

Cordate - heart-shaped

Corolla - all the petals of a flower

Corymb - short, broad, flat-

topped cluster of flowers, outer flowers open first

Cotyledon - seed leaf of an angiosperm embryo

Culm - flowering stem of grasses and sedges

Deciduous - falling off, not persistent or evergreen

Decumbent - prostrate at or near the base with other parts erect or ascending

Dehiscent - opening and releasing contents

Dentate - toothed with teeth directed outward

Dicotyledon (dicot) - flowering plant characterized by seeds with two cotyledons, net-veined leaves, floral parts in fours, fives or multiples of four and five

Disk or disc flower - small tubular flower in the central part of a floral head; characteristic of members of the sunflower family

Distal - furthest away

Drupe - stone fruit; fleshy fruit with one hard, covered seed as cherries, plums, peaches and olives

Ecosystem - the biotic (living) community and the abiotic (non-living) environment functioning as a system

Ecotone - a transitional area between two different communities, having characteristics of both yet with a unique character of its own

Elliptic (elliptical) - being widest at the center

Emergent - aquatic plant with its lower part submerged and upper part extended above the water

Endemic - a situation in which a species or other taxonomic group is restricted to a particular geographic region

Entire - leaf margin without lobes, divisions or teeth

Epiphyte - a plant growing on another plant and obtaining no nutrients from the other plant

Estuary - an area where freshwater and sea water meet

Evergreen - bearing green leaves throughout the year; holding live leaves over one or more winters

Exfoliating - to come off or separate from

Exotic - not native to an area

Fascicle - a small bundle or tuft of leaves

Filiform - slender and threadlike

Flowering plant - angiosperms; plants that produce seeds enclosed by an ovary (fruit)

Follicle - a dry fruit that splits along a suture at maturity and contains more than one seed.

Fron - the leaf of a fern

Glabrous - smooth

Glandular - having glands; having secreting organs

Glaucous - surface with a very fine, white powdery substance that will rub off, as on many grapes and blueberries

Grain - a small dry seedlike fruit produced by grasses

Gymnosperm - a seed plant, as the pine, in which the seeds are not enclosed in an ovary

Habit - the way the plant grows

Hammock (hummock) - a small natural hill; a piece of land thickly wooded and

usually covered with vines and bushes

Hardwood - the wood of broad-leaved dicotyledonous trees

Hemiparasitic - an organism that lives on and derives part of its nourishment from a different organism, and part through its own photosynthesis

Herb - having no persistent woody stem above ground or a plant used for seasoning food

Herbaceous - having characteristics of an herb

Hydrology - the science of water, its properties, phenomena and distribution over the earth's surface

Indehiscent - not opening

Inflorescence - a cluster of flowers

Insectivorous - acquires some of its nutrients by trapping and digesting insects

Invasive - a species native to one area but living and reproducing in another area in such a way that it negatively impacts the new environment

Keel - a ridge

Keeled - with a ridge

Lanceolate - lance shaped; widest at the base and several times longer than broad

Leaflet - one of the leaflike parts of a compound leaf

Ligule - strap-shaped structure; a membranous or hairy appendage on the axial surface of a leaf in grasses at the junction of the sheath and blade; located at leaf node

Linear - narrow with parallel sides

Lobed - having rounded segments of an organ; as in petal, sepal, leaf

Maritime - located on or close to the sea

Marsh - wetland dominated by emergent, herbaceous vegetation

Monocotyledon (monocot) - a flowering plant with one cotyledon in seeds, floral parts in threes or multiples of three, and parallel-veined leaves

Mucilage - a substance that is produced in the cell walls of plants and that is hard when dry, and swelling and slimy when moist; composition varies

Native plant - one that originated in the area in which it grows

Naturalized - a non-native species that is reproducing in its adopted habitat

Needle - a stiff, narrow leaf

Node - the stem region where a leaf is attached or borne

Nondeciduous - evergreen; bearing leaves throughout the year

Nutlet - a small nut or nutlike fruit

Oblanceolate - narrowly oblong

Obovate - broadly oblong

Obtuse - nearly rounded, or blunt

Opposite leaf arrangement - two leaves attached at the same node

Ovate - egg-shaped and attached at the broad end

Palmate - looking like outspread fingers of a hand; having three or more lobes or divisions

Panicle - a compound raceme

Parasite - an organism that lives and feeds on or in a host organism for at least part of its life cycle; may or may not kill the host

Perennial - a plant that lives three or more years

Petiolate - having a petiole

Petiole - the stem portion of a leaf

Pinnae - leaflets of a compound leaf

Pinnate - having a long axis, with branches, lobes, veins, or leaflets

Pinnatifid - leaf margins that are cut to the midrib so that they appear compound but are actually simple

Pistil - central seed-bearing organ of a flowering plant (consists of stigma, style, ovary); female part of a plant

Pistillate - having a pistil or pistils, but not stamens

Pollination - transfer of pollen from an anther to a stigma

Posterior - lower or rear

Prostrate - lying flat on the ground

Pubescent/pubescence - downy with short hairs

Raceme - an unbranched inflorescence with stalked flowers borne on a single elongated axis

Ray flower - the regular flower around the edge of the head of plants in the sunflower family; each ray flower resembles a single petal

Reniform - shaped like a kidney

Resinous - with the appearance of resin; dotted with glands

Rhizome - horizontal underground stem

Rosette - arrangement of leaves radiating from a crown or center, usually close to the ground

Sagittate - like an arrowhead

Samara - dry, indehiscent, winged fruit (as in red maple)

Savanna - a flat area dominated by grasses with widely spaced trees

Scape - a leafless stem rising from the ground and bearing flowers

Schizocarp - a dry dehiscent fruit that splits into two parts

Sepals - a sterile part of a flower that forms the typically green outer series of structures that surround the petals

Serrate - having sharp pointed teeth

Sessile - without a stalk or stem

Simple leaf - a leaf with a blade in a single part

Sori - clusters of sporangia (spore-bearing structures) of a fern (singular - sorus)

Spathe - a large leafy bract that encloses one side of a flower or inflorescence

Spatulate - having a broad rounded apex and narrow base

Spike - cluster of sessile flowers on an elongated axis as in grasses

Spikelet - a small or secondary spike; one of the ultimate parts of a grass flower

Sporangium (sporangia, plural) - a structure where spores are produced; a spore case or sac

Spores - small reproductive bodies produced by certain species of bacteria, algae, fungi, and nonflowering plants

Stamen - the pollen-producing organ of a flower; the male part of a flower

Staminate - having stamens but lacking pistils

Submerged - growing entirely under water

Subtending - standing below and close to

Succulent - fleshy or spongy and filled with water

Tendrils - a clasping or twining structure derived from a modified stem, leaf or leaf part that is used for attachment and climbing

Ternate - arranged in threes

Three-ranked - leaves alternating on three sides of a stem

Two-ranked - leaves alternating on opposite sides of a stem

Umbel - a flower cluster in which the stalks arise from the same point, as in the ribs of an umbrella

Utricle - a small, thin-walled, one-seeded fruit

Whorl - all coming from the same point on the axis in a circular pattern

Whorled leaves - three or more leaves attached to the same node

Venation - the arrangement of veins in a leaf