

Terminology used when referring to plants

“**Aerial roots**” - Roots produced above ground, often used for climbing.

“**Bracts**” - Bract a modified leaf of an inflorescence. Usually the bract is coloured and hence makes the flower cluster more visually attractive.

“**Biennial plants**” - A plant that grows, flowers, produces seeds or fruit, and dies in two years. Some herbaceous flowers and vegetables are biennial. Most biennial plants produce foliage the first year and bloom the second year.

“**Bigeneric**” - A term used for hybrids between two genera. Usually crosses between members of closely related species. These types of hybrids are uncommon.

“**Chimera**” - is a broad term and is often applied to many different types of mixing of cells from two different species, usually man made. Examples of Chimera are; variegated foliage plants i.e. green / white stripe leaves, grafted plants, plants that produce two coloured flowers, on the same bush.

“**Clone**” - A group of plants derived vegetatively from one parent plant, which are identical to each other & to the parent. Original clones, come from seed, i.e. 6 seedlings can be referred to as 6 separate clones.

“**Cultivar**” - is a cultivated plant that has been selected and given a unique name because it has desirable characteristics (decorative or useful) that distinguish it from otherwise similar plants of the same species. When propagated it retains those characteristics. e.g. **Aechmea gamosepala** 'Lucky Stripes'

“**Dormancy/ Evergreen**” - The yearly cycle in a plants life when growth slows and the plant rests. Dormant plants usually loose their foliage during this rest period (the plant version of hibernation). While evergreen plants, keep their foliage during the rest period.

“**Epiphyte / Epiphytic**” - A plant which grows on another plant (host plant) but gets its nourishment from the air and rainfall. They do no damage to the host plant. e.g. many bromeliads and orchids.

“**F1**” = **Filial** generation : - refers to the offspring generation. F1 is the first offspring (or filial generation); F2 is the second; and so on. Successive

generations of progeny in a controlled series of crosses, starting with two specific parents,
e.g. plant A x plant B = seedlings called F1, F1seedling x F1seedling = F2, F2 x F2 = F3, etc., F3 is the 3rd generation from plan A x B.

“Foliar feeding” - Fertilizer applied in liquid form to the plants foliage in a fine spray. **Some** plants are able to absorb this fertilizer through the foliage.

“Genus” - A group of species possessing fundamental traits in common, but differing in other lesser characteristics. Usually most species (with in a given genus) can not interbreed to produce fertile offspring.

“Habitat” - The environment in which a plant grows.

“hybrid” - is the result of interbreeding between plants of different “taxa” (inter species or inter genus crosses).

“Inflorescence” - A flower cluster. Made up of many flowers and/or bracts (modified leaves).

“Internode” - The part of a stem between two nodes. Most commonly distance between two consecutive leaves on a stem.

“Meristem” - Areas of actively dividing cells inside the growing tip of a plant terminal shoot; capable of developing into specialized tissues. e.g. leaven, stem, flowers etc.,

“Microclimate” – a specific environment relating to a given organism or plant (very localized climate conditions), e.g. inside the leaf litter, vs. above the leaf litter around the base of a tree in a rainforest or inside a terrarium.

e.g. many different “microclimates” may occur at the same time, in given areas of garden.

“Mutation” - A sudden change in genetic material resulting in an altered individual. Generally disadvantageous to the mutated plant’s survival. Though a small number of new mutations will be desirable,

Flower "**Petal**" - Modified leaves forming the inner floral envelope of flowers.

"**ph**" - A measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a substance; a measure of the relative concentration of hydrogen ions and hydroxyl ions.

"**Propogation**" - Means of reproducing plants, such as by seeds, cutting , budding or grafting.

Flower "**Sepal**" - Modified leaves forming the outer floral envelope of a flower.

"**Species**" - A natural group of plants composed of similar individuals which can produce similar offspring; usually including several minor variations.

Flower "**Stamen**" - The male part of a flower composed of the anther and filament; the pollen bearing organ in a flower.

Flower "**Stigma**" - Receptive female part of the flower (end of a pistil) that receives the pollen.

"**Stolon**" - A horizontal stem that roots at its tip and then gives rise to a new plant.

"**Systemic chemical**" - A chemical which is absorbed directly through a plant's foliage, then transported through out the plant tissue, either to kill feeding insects on the plant, or to kill the plant itself.

"**Taxonomy**" - The area of botany dealing with the classifying and naming of plants & plant groupings, according to similar genetic characteristics. In relation to a specific hierarchy reflecting evolutionary relationships.

"**Taxa**" - (plural; Taxon); name given to a group of plants (of similar genetic makeup) having a taxonomic rank, according to a particular level in a hierarchy reflecting evolutionary relationships.

"**Tissue Culture**" - growing plants from tissue, taken from the growing tip of a plant and artificially propagated by placing in sterile containers with sterile growing media under artificial lighting.

“Variety” - Subdivision of a species having a distinct though often inconspicuous difference, and breeding true to that difference. More general, also refers to **clones**, example; *Billbergia vittata* var., Domingos Martins

“Xerophyte or Xerophytic organism - (*xero* meaning dry, *phyte* meaning plant) is a plant which is able to survive in an ecosystem with little available water or moisture, for all or part of the growing season. e.g. *Tillandsias* growing on cacti in deserts, only get moisture from mist.