



Plant ID

Vocabulary Cards

# Botany

The scientific study of plants, including their physiology, structure, genetics, ecology, distribution, and classification.



# Photosynthesis

The process by which plants make their own food.  
Photosynthesis happens in the leaves using carbon dioxide,  
water, and sunlight.



# Characteristic

A distinguishing quality, trait, or feature.



# Arrangement

The way something is ordered or organized. On plants, leaf arrangement is the way the leaves are arranged on the stem.



# Leaf Edge

The edges or margins of a leaf.



# Lobed

Parts of the leaf that extend less than halfway to the middle of the base. Often stick out like ear lobes or fingers on a hand.



# Smooth

Leaf edge is not broken up into teeth.





# Toothed

Leaves having a saw-like edge. Teeth can vary in sharpness and size.



# Opposite

Leaf arrangement where the leaves are symmetrical or growing directly across from one another on the stem.



# Alternate

Leaf arrangement that is not symmetrical on the stem. The leaves are staggered on the stem.



# Simple

Leaves with one bud and a single leaf growing from it.



# Compound

Leaves with one bud and multiple leaflets growing from it. All of the leaflets together are considered one leaf.



# Dichotomous Key

A tool that scientists use to determine the identity of something in the natural world. A dichotomous key is like a map that has a series of questions, each having two directions to choose from, that leads the user to the answer.

"Dichotomous" means "divided into two parts".

