



ACLP Plant ID Glossary of Terms

1. **Areole:** small light- to dark-colored bumps on cacti out of which grow clusters of spines. Areoles are important diagnostic features of cacti, and identify them as a family distinct from other succulent plants.
2. **Annual:** completing the life cycle in one growing season.
3. **Apex:** tip or top
4. **Biennial:** completing the life cycle in two growing seasons.
5. **Bract:** a leaf modified in shape or color from the overall usual form on a plant.
6. **Broad-leaved:** a diverse group of plants that have flat leaves (flattened blade) and produces seeds inside of fruits. The blade is often marked with a network of prominent veins. May be evergreen or deciduous.
7. **Bulbil:** small, young plant reproduced vegetatively from axillary buds on the parent plant's stem or in place of a flower on an inflorescence.
8. **Clade:** a group of organisms believed to have evolved from a single common ancestor.
9. **Cladode:** flattened stem, appearing as a leaf, specialized for photosynthesis. E.g. prickly pear pads.
10. **Deciduous:** a plant that loses its leaves just prior to a dormancy period; parts capable of detachment or abscission, usually seasonally, as opposed to evergreen.
11. **Defoliation:** widespread loss of leaves or stripping of leaves on a plant; may be caused by animal grazing, insect infestation, disease or chemical run-off from herbicides.
12. **Dehiscent:** naturally splitting, usually along lines, in patterns.
13. **Dioecious:** flowers unisexual, female and male flowers borne on separate plants.
14. **Epidermal:** upper layer of cells; outside layer of cells



15. Evergreen: plants that retain their leaves (foliage) through the year and into the following growing season. May be broad-leaved or narrow-leaved plants.
16. Fascicle: cluster or bundle. Example: Pine needles
17. Foetid: malodorous; ill-smelling
18. Foliage: collective term for leaves of a plant.
19. Frond: the leaf of a palm; pinnate, palmate, bipinnate or entire. Also, the leaf of a fern
20. Genus: taxonomic rank or grouping that comes above a species and below a family. It is always capitalized.
21. Gland: specialized structure, often epidermal, capable of secretion.
22. Glochid: small spines with minute barbs; found only in certain cacti; usually in clusters and associated with larger non-barbed spines.
23. Hardy: the ability of a plant to withstand cold temperatures.
24. Herbaceous: not strongly woody; a plant that has non-woody stems and may reach its full height and produce flowers within one growing season.
25. Hirsute: pubescence of stiff, erect hairs, but not noticeably rough to the touch.
26. Inflorescence: flower cluster; a cluster of flowers on a branch including stalks, bracts and flowers. The arrangement of flowers on the floral axis (peduncle).
27. Internode: stem portions lying between two consecutive nodes (sites of leaf attachment). It possesses the ability to elongate.
28. Leaflet: leaf blade segment, attached to a midrib (midvein), rachis of a compound leaf; a complete division of a leaf margin.
29. Leaf Scar: the mark left by a leaf after it falls off the twig; the site where the petiole attached to the stem. A leaf scar is typically found below a branch as branches come from axillary buds located above leaf scars.



30. Lenticel: corky protuberance from the stem, usually small and of a color differing from the background.
31. Liana: a long-stemmed, woody vine that is rooted in the soil at ground level and uses trees and other means of vertical support. Example: grapes.
32. Monoecious: Flowers unisexual but female and male flowers borne on the same plant.
33. Narrow-leaved: Plants with needle-like, awl-like, scale-like or blade-like leaves such as pines, yew, junipers or arborvitae.
34. Node: portion of stem to which a leaf (leaves) is attached; often swollen. A node may have one or more leaves, as well as buds which can grow into branches, leaves or flowers.
35. Pendulous: drooping, hanging downward; weeping
36. Perennial: a plant that persists for many growing seasons. In herbaceous perennials, the tops may die back each winter and regrow the following spring.
37. Petiole: leaf stalk
38. Phyllode: petiole and/or rachis is flattened, appearing as a leaf blade.
39. Pinna: leaflet of a pinnately compound leaf; segment of a pinnatifid leaf. Pinnae is plural of pinna.
40. Pinnate: feather-like; parts arising along a central axis; referring to major veins or to leaflets or segments.
41. Prickle: a sharpened extension of the stem's epidermis (outer layer of cells) readily dislodged. Example: roses.
42. Prostrate: growing flat along the ground.
43. Pubescence: trichomes or "hairs"; epidermal projections of various forms. Pubescent; pertaining to pubescence.
44. Rachis: midvein of a compound leaf blade to which leaflets are attached.



45. Reproductive plant parts: flowers, fruits and seeds and structures related to the flowers, fruits and seeds.
46. Rhizome: creeping underground stem.
47. Rootstock (stock): lower portion of a grafted plant, that produces roots.
48. Rosette: a tight cluster of leaves, usually near the ground or sometimes atop a trunk.
46. Scabrous: pubescence of very stiff and often curved “hairs”, making a surface very rough to the touch, sandpapery.
47. Scale: flattened reduced leaf or epidermal outgrowth.
48. Scion: the upper or above-ground part of a grafted plant. It is selected for its stems, leaves, flowers or fruits.
49. Shrub: a woody plant with several perennial stems that may be upright or may lay close to the ground and will usually have a height less than 13 feet and stems no more than about three inches in diameter.
50. Species: the basic unit of classification and a taxonomic rank of an organism. It is never capitalized.
51. Spine: sharp-pointed modified leaf or leaf part.
52. Stem: above ground structures of a plant that contain vascular tissue and support the leaves, flowers and fruit. A stem is divided into nodes and internodes.
53. Succulent: plants with parts (typically modified leaves, stems and roots) that may be thickened, fleshy or engorged to retain water in arid climates or soil conditions. The term succulent is not used as a scientific definition but is commonly used as a horticultural term. Fleshy.
54. Tender: a perennial plant that will not survive the winter outdoors because it will be killed by frost. Some plants may be labeled as heat tender.
55. Tendrils: twisting or coiling thread-like structures that support a vine.
56. Thorn: a modified stem with a sharpened point.



57. Tomentose: pubescence of matted numerous “hairs”; felty
58. Tree: a woody plant having one upright perennial stem (trunk) at least three inches in diameter at a point 4-1/2 feet above the ground, a definitely formed crown of foliage, and a mature height of at least 13 feet.
59. Tubercles: enlarged protuberances; in cacti, representing enlarged leaf bases, sometimes arranged as ribs.
60. Undulate: margin wavy, otherwise entire.
61. Variegated: blotched or patterned with two or more colors.
62. Vegetative plant parts: roots, stems, shoot buds, and leaves.
63. Whorled: leaf arrangement; three or more leaves per node.
64. Winged: bearing flattened lateral surfaces.
65. Woody: a plant that produces wood (secondary xylem) as its structural tissue and thus has a hard stem. Usually either trees, shrubs or lianas. The main stem, larger branches, and roots of woody plants are usually covered by a layer of bark (outermost layer of tissues, outside the vascular cambium).
66. Woody vine: woody perennial stems that cannot support themselves. They use other plants or objects to rise above the ground or they lie along the ground. They may attach themselves to other objects with tendrils or by twining. The stems rarely grow very large in diameter.