



HELPFUL CLUES TO THE MEANINGS OF SPECIFIC PLANT NAMES

Keys To Parts of Plants:

andrus - stamen
anthus - flower
carpus - fruit
caulis - stem
florus - flower

folius - leaf
lobus - lobe
pes - foot
petalus - petal
podus - foot, stalk

phyllus - leaf
rhyzus - root
sepalus - sepal
spinus - spine
squamus - scale

Keys To Color Designations:

albus - white
argenteus - silver
aureus - golden
azureus - sky blue
caeruleus - dark blue
candicans - white
candidus - glistening white
chromus - color
chryseus - golden yellow

citrinus - lemon yellow
coccineus - scarlet
coelestinus - sky blue
croceus - saffron
cyanus - blue
flavua - yellow
fulvus - tawny
incarnatus - flesh-toned
lilacinus - lilac

luteus - yellow
niger - black
purpureus - purple
roseus - rosy
ruber - red
sanguineus - blood red
violaceus - violet
virens, viridis - green
xanthinus - yellow

Keys To Numbers And Quantity In General:

(In compounds with keys which are among those included above)

1 - *uniflorus, monophyllus*
2 - *biflorus, diphyllus*
3 - *trilobus*
4 - *quadrifolius, tetraphyllus*
5 - *quinqueflorus, pentanthus*

6 - *hexaphyllus*
7 - *heptaphyllus*
8 - *octopetalus*
9 - *enneaphyllus*
10 - *decapetalus*

100 - *centifolius*
hetero - various (prefix)
multi - many (prefix)
pauci - few (prefix)
poly - many (prefix)

Keys To Size And Shape (Chiefly as prefixes in compound words):

alti - tall
angularis - angular
angusti - narrow
brevi - short
elongatus - elongated
giganteus - large

gracilis - slender
grandi - large
lati - wide
longi - long
macro - large
maximus - very large

mega - large
micro - small
minimus - very small
ortho - straight
parvi - small
tenui - slender



Keys (Few Of Many) To Character, Form, Habit, Etc.

<i>acuminatus</i> - tapering	<i>filiferus</i> - having threads	<i>pendulus</i> - hanging,
<i>acutus</i> - sharp-pointed	<i>flore-pleno</i> - double-flowered	weeping
<i>alatus</i> - winged	<i>floridus</i> - flowering	<i>perennis</i> - perennial
<i>amabilis</i> - lovely	<i>fragilis</i> - fragile	<i>pleniflorus</i> - double-
<i>annus</i> - annual	<i>fruticosus</i> - shrubby, bushy	flowered
<i>arborescens</i> - woody, tree-like	<i>glaber</i> - smooth	<i>plumosus</i> - plummy,
<i>barbatus</i> - barbed, bearded	<i>glaucus</i> - having a bloom	feathery
<i>biennis</i> - biennial	(like a grape)	<i>praecox</i> - very early
<i>capitatus</i> - headed	<i>glomeratus</i> - clustered	<i>procumbens</i> - trailing
<i>carnosus</i> - fleshy	<i>graveolens</i> - heavy-	<i>pumilus</i> - dwarf
	scented	
<i>coloratus</i> - colored	<i>hortonsis</i> - garden type	<i>pungens</i> - sharp-pointed
<i>columnaris</i> - columnar	<i>hortorum</i> - garden type	<i>pyramidalis</i> - pyramidal
<i>communis</i> - common, general	<i>hybridus</i> - mixed, hybrid	<i>racemosus</i> - flowers in
<i>cornutus</i> - horned	<i>incanus</i> - hoary	racemes
<i>crenatus</i> - scalloped	<i>laciniatus</i> - torn	<i>radicans</i> - rooting
<i>cristatus</i> - crested	<i>lanatus</i> - woolly	<i>recurvus</i> - recurved
<i>cultorum</i> - of cultivated type	<i>lanceolatus</i> - lance-like	<i>repens, reptans</i> - creeping
<i>cuspidatus</i> - stiff, pointed	<i>marginatus</i> - with margins	<i>scandens</i> - climbing
<i>deciduus</i> - deciduous	<i>medius</i> - intermediate	<i>serratus</i> - saw-toothed
<i>decumbens</i> - bent down	<i>mollis</i> - soft	<i>sessilis</i> - stalkless
<i>densus</i> - dense	<i>muralis</i> - of (for) walls	<i>speciosus</i> - showy
<i>dentatus</i> - toothed	<i>mutabilis</i> - variable	<i>spectabilis</i> - showy
<i>dissectus</i> - deep cut	<i>nanus</i> - dwarf	<i>spicatus</i> - with
spikes		
<i>divaricatus</i> - spreading	<i>nudus</i> - bare	<i>suaveolens</i> - sweet-
<i>erectus</i> - upright	<i>nutans</i> - nodding	scented
<i>esculentus</i> - edible	<i>odoratus</i> - fragrant	<i>suspensus</i> - hanging,
<i>eximius</i> - distinguished, unusual	<i>officinalis</i> - medicinal	weeping
<i>fimbriatus</i> - fringed	<i>paniculatus</i> - panicle-	<i>trivialis</i> - common
	shaped	
<i>fertilis</i> - fruitful	<i>reflexus</i> - reflexed	<i>umbellatus</i> - bearing
		umbels
<i>variegatus</i> - variegated	<i>vegatus</i> - vigorous	<i>vulgaris</i> - common
		<i>zonatus</i> - banded



Keys To Seasons Of The Year:

aestivalis - summer
vernalis – spring

hyemalis - winter

autumnalis - autumn

Keys Denoting Regions Or Habitats:

(Note: place names such as *americanus*, *germanicus*, etc., can be guessed)

aero - of or in air
agrarius - of fields
agrestis - of fields
alpinus - alpine
aquaticus - aquatic
australis - southern

borealis - northern
montanus - of mountains
occidentalis - western
oceanicus - of the sea
orientalis - eastern

riparius - of river
rupestris - rock-loving
saxatilis - rock-loving
sylvaticus - of woods
sylvestris - of woods
terrestris - of earth

Keys To Designations Of Emphasis, Degree, Or Kind:

Prefixes:
atro-dark
semper-ever,
always
sub-somewhat

Suffixes:
-bundus - abundant
-escens - resembling
-ferus - bearing
-ulus – somewhat

-issimus - very
-oides - like
-osus - with, bear



ENGLISH EQUIVALENTS OF LATIN NAMES OF A FEW SPECIES

aceroides: maple-like
aggregatus: clustered
alatus: winged
albus: white
altus: tall
amabilis: lovely
americanus: American
apetalus: without petals
aphyllus: leafless
arborescens: tree-like
arenarius: sandy places
argentatus: silvery
aromaticus: aromatic
arrectus: erect
articulatus: jointed
ascendens: ascending
atratus: blacken
atropurpureus: dark purple
atrorubens: dark red
atrovirens: dark green
aurantiacus: orange-red
aureolus: golden
aureus: golden
azureus: sky-blue
bicolor: two-colored
caeruleus: dark blue
campanulatus: bell-shaped
canadensis: Canadian
cerefolius: wax-leaved
chinensis: to China
chloranthus: green-flowered
chrysanthus: golden-flowered
communis: common
compactus: compact
conifera: cone-bearing
cordatus: heart-shaped
corymbifera: corymb-bearing
cruentus: bloody
decumbens: reclining
dentatus: toothed
elatus: tall
erectus: erect, upright
filicatus: fern like
flavus: yellow

frutescens: shrubby
grandiflorus: large flowered
horizontalis: horizontal
humilis: dwarf
hybridus: hybrid, mixed
japonicus: of Japan
kewensis: Kew Gardens
letescens: yellowish
marginalis: marginal markings
minimus: smallest
monocus: monoecious
nana: dwarf
niger: black
obtusifolius: blunt leaved
occidentalis: western
panduratus: fiddle shaped
patens: spreading
plumosus: feathery
procumbens: lying on the ground
pubescens: pubescent, downy
pumilus: dwarf
purpureus: purple
pyramidalis: pyramidal
radicans: rooting
repens: creeping
Rex: king
rotundifolius: round leaved
ruber: red
scandens: climbing
semperflorens: over-flowering
serratus: saw-toothed
sinensis: Chinese, of China
speciosus: good looking, showy
sterilis: infertile
sylvestris: of forests
terminalis: at end of stem
tomentosus: matted pubescent
tortilis: twisted
tricolor: three colored
variegatus: variegated
vulgatus: common
deltoideus: triangular