Plant Terms Glossary:

Term	Definition
Accent	Element differing from everything around it, but is limited in quantity to
, 1000111	surrounding elements to subtly attract attention (not as strong in focus as
	contrast).
Achene	A small dry thin-walled fruit, not splitting when ripe and containing a single seed.
Adventitious	Lateral roots coming from organs other than the main root system.
(roots)	,
Alternate	Alternate leaves on stems grow in a staggered pattern and they look like each leaf grows in between the leaves on the opposite side. This means that each plant node only has one leaf growing from it.
Aerial roots	Roots emerging from the plant completely above the ground level – almost always adventitious roots.
Ament	See Catkin.
Annual	Plants that complete their life cycle within one year / growing season.
Anther	The part of the stamen (male organ of the flower) containing the pollen.
Awn	A fine bristle ending on an organ (usually on a grass flower)
Axil	The angle between the stem and the leaf.
	Stem Leaf
Axillary	Arising in an axil.
Basal leaves	Leaves lowest on the plant stem, offer protection for roots.
Beard	A tuft of long hairs.
Biennial	Plants that complete their life cycle over two years from seedling stage, to maturity, seed-set and death.
Bloom	Powdery surface layer often seen on fruit.
Bract	A modified or specialized leaf especially one associated with a reproductive structure such as a flower (differ from sepals which are parts of the calyx of the flower. Bracts are often (but not always) different from foliage leaves.
Calyx	The outermost whorl of the flower often divided into sepals. Sepals: Calyx
Catkin (also	A slender, often pendulous, cylindrical flower with crowded stalkless (or almost
called an Ament)	stalkless) unisexual, flowers without petals.
Compound (leaf) Corm	Made up of several similar parts. (Opposite to Simple) Short underground swollen stem used for storage.
Corolla	The Second Control of the Control of
COTOIIA	Perials: Corolla up of petals. The inner (second) whori of the flower inside the callyx and made-up of petals.
Corymb	An almost flat topped racemose of paniculate flower in which the branches od the pericles start from different points but all reach to about the same level.

Deciduous Dioecious Disc-florets Disk / Disc	A flower cluster with a central stem bearing a single terminal flower that develops first, the other flowers in the cluster developing as terminal buds of lateral (side) stems. Leaves falling seasonally, losing all leaves for part of the year – not evergreen. Unisexual flowers, male and female flowers sit on different plants and both are required for the female plant to bear fruit. Disk Floret The actinomorphic (regular) or sometimes bilabiate (2 lipped) florets in the centre of the capitulum (cluster of flowers) in the centre of Asteraceae (Daisy family).
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	The usual disk-shaped receptacle of the head in Asteraceae.
Ellipsoid	A three-dimensional shape that is elliptic (almost oval) in cross-section in the vertical plane.
Elliptical	Broadest in the middle with two equally tapering/round ends, generally about 1½ times as long as broad.
Fall (in <i>Iris spp.)</i>	One of the outer petals, narrow at the base expands into a broad pendulous blade.
Florets	A small flower; in Asteraceae a single flower; in <i>Gramineaea</i> and <i>Poaceae</i> (grasses) the flower plus its bracts.
Follicles	A pod coming from a single carpel (flowers female sexual organ.).
Foundation	Beds of plants, often dominated by shrubs, installed along house foundations.
Planting	
Glaucous	The pale grey or bluish-green appearance of the surfaces of some plants.
Herbaceous	An annual herb or herb with annual stems from a perennial root. A plant with the texture of a herb – non-woody stems.
Hermaphrodite	A bisexual plant with stamen and pistils in the same flower.
Imparipinnate	Unevenly or odd-pinnate – with a single terminal leaf.
Inflorescence	The part of the plant that bears the flowers (includes bracts, branches and flowers, excludes unmodified leaves).
Involucre	A set of bracts (specialised leaves) that surrounds or envelops an organ of the plant, usually a flower or an inflorescence.
Keeled leaf	A ridge (a distinct sharp angled edge fold) along the middle of the leaf, like the keel of a boat.
Lanceolate	Narrowly ovate and tapering to a point at the apex.
Linear	Narrow and much longer than wide, with parallel margins (sides)
Lip	When the caylx (the outer most whorl of the flower) or corolla (the second whorl of the flower inside the calyx) are divided into two parts, an upper and lower lip.
Monoecious	With all the flowers bisexual, or with male and female flowers on the same plant.
Obovate	Egg-shaped with the broadest part nearer the apex.

Opposite	Leaves and branches – when two are borne on the same node but are on diametrically opposed sides of the stem.
Ovate	Egg shaped, with tapering point and wider section of leaf closer to the petiole (leafstalk).
Palmate	Palm-shaped (like a hand), i.e., with lobes or leaflets stemming from the leaf base. Refers typically to the full leaf.
Panicle	An inflorescence where the main axis has several lateral (side) branches each of which is branched.
Pedate	Palmate, with cleft lobes. Foot-like.
Pendulous	Hanging (as in pendant or pendulum).
Perennial	Living for several (3) to many years.
Perianth	Collective term for the calyx (outer whorl of tepals) and corolla (inner petals) of a flower.
Pistillate	Female- flower with only female parts.
Petiole	The leaf stalks.
Pome	A fruit made up of a large fleshy outer and a tough central core containing the seeds – as seen in an apple or pear.
Prostrate	Lying flat.
Raceme	A flower cluster with the separate flowers attached by short equal stalks at equal distances along a central stem. The flowers at the base of the central stem develop first.
Ray-florets	The zygomorphic florets around the head of Asteraceae (Daisy family). (Zygomorphic = shape with a mirror image along a central line)
Reflexed	Curved backwards or downwards at a sharp angle.
Rhizome	Underground stem, distinguished from roots by its nodes, buds or scale-like leaves.
Sepals	Parts of the calyx of a flower (unlike bracts which are leaves), enclosing the petals and typically green and leaflike.
	Without a stalk attached directly.

Shrub	A self-supporting woody plant branching at or near the ground with several stems from the base. (Less correctly, used for short woody plants with a single stem or plants with a single stem and side branches close to the base.)
Simple (leaf) Sinus	Not divided into leaflets.(Opposite to Compound) The recesses (hollows) between the leaf lobes or the angle formed by the basal leaf lobes.
Stamen	The male organ of the flower, typically consisting of a pollen-containing anther and a filament.
Staminate	Bearing stamen (the male part of the flower).
Standard (Iris	Standard A narrow erect or ascending inner petal.
spp.)	MA STATE OF THE ST
Spathe	A large sheathing bract surrounding the infloresence or spadix (unbranches infloresence with a thick fleshy stem in which the flowers are partially embedded.)
Sucker	A shoot arising from below ground from the roots some distance from the main stem. A shoot arising from below ground from the roots some distance from the main stem.
Systematics	The branch of biology that deals with classification and nomenclature, taxonomy.
Tepal	A division of the perianth used when it is not clear whether the structure is a sepal or a petal.
Terminal	At the apex (or end) of the shoot.
Topiay	The art or practice of clipping shrubs or trees into ornamental shapes.
Umbel	An inflorescence with branches arising from the same point.
Variegated leaf	Irregularly coloured with two or more colours.
Vigorous	Strong
Whorl	A set of similar organs (leaves, petals) aranged in a circle around a central axis.

Xeric	Of dry areas.
Xeriscaping	The process of landscaping, or gardening, that reduces or eliminates the need for irrigation.