Keywords for Botany Module

The purpose of this list is to help you focus on the important keywords from all the educational materials. Please note, these words and definitions do not need to be memorized. Keywords on this list appear in order of appearance in the manual.

Xylem	The part of the plant's vascular system that conducts water and dissolved minerals.
Phloem	The part of a plant's vascular system that carries food such as sugars.
Cotyledon	Specialized leaf that supplies a seedling with initial energy for growth.
Monocot	A grouping of plants most easily identified by a single cotyledon (monocotyledon), parallel venation, and flower parts in multiples of 3.
Dicot	A grouping of plants most easily identified by two cotyledons (dicotyledon), network venation, and flower parts in multiples of 4 or 5.
Annual	A plant that completes its life cycle in one year.
Biennial	A plant that requires all or part of two growing seasons to complete its life cycle.
Perennial	A plant that lives for more than two years.
Nomenclature	The system of names in a field. Biological nomenclature, for instance.
Species name	A two-word name based on a precise system of classification that is unique to every organism. Includes the genus and specific epithet.

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Variety	A plant that has one of more clearly distinguishable characteristics and occurs in natural populations. A variety name is written in lower case, italicized or underlined, and preceded by the abbreviation "var." Example: White Eastern Redbud is *Cercis canadensis* var. *alba*.
Cultivar	A contraction of "cultivated variety;" a distinct variety of a plant that was created or selected and maintained through human cultivation.
Meristem	Specialized cells that are a plant's growing points - the site of rapid, almost continuous cell division.
Vascular system	Water conducting tissue, consisting of xylem, phloem, and vascular cambium, continuous throughout a plant.
Node	Area on a stem where buds are located.
Internode	The area between two nodes.
Photosynthesis	Process by which leaves absorb sunlight and turn carbon dioxide into sugars.
Pollination	The transfer of pollen from an anther to a stigma, most often by wind or by pollinators.
Germination	Process in which a seed embryo goes from a dormant state to an active, growing state.
Respiration	Chemical reaction with oxygen by which sugars and starches are converted into energy.
Evapotranspiration	Water movement in a plant from a combined effect of transpiration and evaporation.
Turgor pressure	The fullness and firmness of plant tissue needed to maintain cell shape and ensure cell growth.

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