



Plant ID Glossary

*Note: This is in no way a complete list of ID terms, it's just a list we have found useful with groups we've worked with. Terms marked with an * are more advanced terms that would be useful for older students and tech schools, but not younger students.*

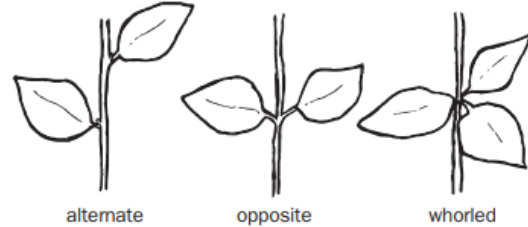
Node: a joint or point of attachment for leaves and branches

Arrangement: How the leaves are arranged on the branch. (Number of leaves per node)

Alternate: Leaves are staggered on the stem
or 1 leaf per node

Opposite: Leaves are straight across from each other
or 2 leaves per node

***Whorled:** 3 or more leaves per node



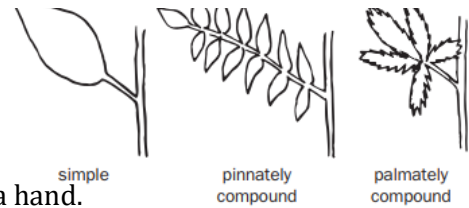
Leaf Types:

Simple: Only one leaf between stem and leaf tip

Compound: Two or more leaflets between stem and leaf tip

***Pinnate:** Leaflets all originate from one axis

***Palmate:** Leaflets all originate from one point like fingers on a hand.

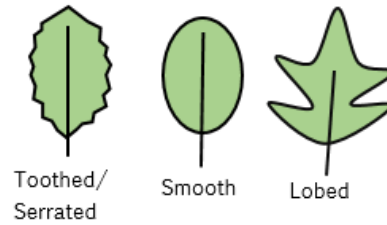


Leaf Edges:

Toothed/ Serrated: leaf edge has sharp teeth

Entire/ Smooth: leaf edge has no teeth

Lobed: leaf edge indents about half way to the midrib



***Fruit Types:**

Samara: dry, simple seed with a wing (example: sugar maple)

Nut: simple, one seeded fruit with a hard shell (example: acorn)

Drupe: simple, fleshy fruit with a single, stony pit (example: cherry)

Berry: simple, fleshy fruit with many seeds (example: blueberry)

Pith: the most central part of a woody plant's branch. It is composed of soft, spongy cells that store and transport nutrients. While most piths are white or pale in color, some are dark or even hollow. This can be a useful characteristic in identifying some plants such as invasive honeysuckle (native honeysuckles have solid piths).

Lenticels: raised pores in the stem of a woody plant that allows gas exchange between the atmosphere and the internal tissues.

Herbaceous: plants that have no persistent woody stem above ground. Herbaceous plants may be annuals, biennials or perennials.

Woody: a plant that produces wood as its structural tissue. Woody plants are usually either trees or shrubs.

Cambium: layer of new growth located under the bark.