





Plant Term Glossary



<i>Objective</i>	Learn background terminology about invasive plants – particularly for identification.
<i>Audience</i>	1 or more participants; all ages
<i>Duration</i>	<20 minutes
<i>Materials</i>	None
<i>Background</i>	This is a list of terms and concepts we have found useful when working with groups to describe ID and invasive plant impacts. <i>Note: This is not a complete list of ID terms.</i> Terms marked with an * are more advanced terms that might be useful for older participants but could be skipped for younger participants.
<i>Procedure</i>	<p>Review any relevant terms (below) with participants before, during, or after any activities involving invasive plants.</p> <p>*Allelopathic Organism: An organism (like invasive garlic mustard) that produces one or more biochemicals that influence the germination, growth, survival, and reproduction of other organisms.</p> <p><u>Leaf Arrangement:</u> How the leaves are arranged on the branch, or number of leaves per node.</p> <p>Alternate: Leaves are staggered on the stem or 1 leaf per node.</p> <p>Opposite: Leaves are straight across from each other or 2 leaves per node.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"><div style="text-align: center;"><p>Alternate</p></div><div style="text-align: center;"><p>Opposite</p></div></div> <p>*Cambium: Layer of new growth located under the bark.</p> <p>*Ecotypic: Species that evolved within a given ecosystem.</p> <p><u>*Fruit Types:</u></p> <p>Samara: Dry, simple seed with a wing (example: sugar maple).</p> <p>Nut: Simple, one seeded fruit with a hard shell (example: acorn).</p> <p>Drupe: Simple, fleshy fruit with a single, stony pit (example: cherry).</p> <p>Berry: Simple, fleshy fruit with many seeds (example: blueberry).</p> <p>Herbaceous Plant: Plants without persistent woody stems above ground, a.k.a. have non-woody stems. Herbaceous plants may be annuals, biennials, or perennials.</p> <p>Locally Evolved Plant: <i>Plants</i> that co-evolved with many other organisms as part of a healthy ecosystem in a given area (generally only considered locally evolved if its presence in that region is the result of only natural process, with no human intervention).</p>

Invasive Plant: A which:

- Did not evolve in the place where you find them.
- Arrived without most of the things that restrict them where they originally evolved and naturally occur (like predators, diseases, and competitors). Therefore, they have the potential to spread very quickly and can quickly dominate ecosystems.
- Causes harm to the local economy, the environment, and/or human health.

Leaf Edges:

Toothed/ Serrated: Leaf edge has sharp teeth.

Entire/ Smooth: Leaf edge has no teeth.

Lobed: Leaf edge indents about halfway to the midrib .

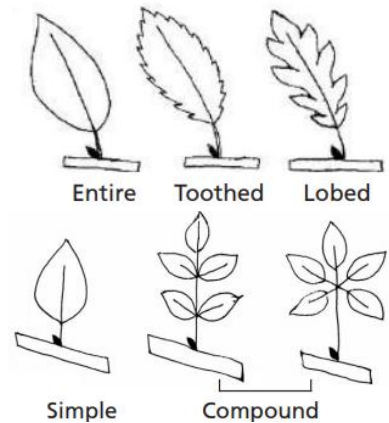
Leaf Types:

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.



***Node:** A joint or point of attachment for leaves and branches.

***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, which has a brown, hollow pith. Comparatively, the locally evolved honeysuckles have solid white piths.

***Primary consumer/Herbivore:** Animals that eat plants.

***Producer:** Produce their own food sources; usually producers are plants; compared to consumers, which are organisms that get their energy from eating.

***Secondary consumer/Omnivore:** Animals that eat primary consumers.

***Tertiary consumer/Carnivore:** Animals that eat only other animals; often referred to as "meat eaters".

***Trophic level:** Each of several hierarchical levels in an ecosystem, comprised of organisms that share the same function in the food web and the same nutritional relationship to the primary sources of energy.

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