

What's in a Name?

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- I. Nomenclature!** It looks like Greek to me! Actually the words used in the **binomial system of classification** are **Latin** or latinized form of words. Approximately 500,000 wild and cultivated plants, each requiring a botanical and a common name.
- Who was Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778)? Swedish botanist who established a method of classifying plants and animals
 - What is the ICBN? International Congress of Botanical Nomenclature
 - Common names: vernacular or folk names, regional. Written in “double quotes”. Multiple names for one plant or multiple plants using one name. Associating their names with their use or characteristics (color, senses, geography, habitat, whimsy, plant parts). Easy to pronounce!
 - Synonyms and name changes: Coleus now *Solenostemon scutellarioides*
Vinca now *Catheranthus rosea*, Red Shrimp was Bellaperone, now *Justicia brandegeana*, Ferns was Filices, now Pterodophyta,
 - Spellings. Misspellings, pronunciation and mispronunciation:
- II. Botanical Names:** The binomial or botanical name is made up of the **genus and the species**.
- Two basic plant groups: Spore-bearing (ferns), seed-bearing (cones-gymnosperms and flowering-angiosperms).
 - Family names: Ending in –aceae. A group of closely related plants (Roseaceae, Asteraceae, Liliaceae, Cactaceae, etc. Group named for largest population in that group.
 - Genus: Written beginning with a capital letter. *Italicized* or underlined.
 - Species: Written beginning with a lower case letter. *Italicized* or underlined. Species is a category of biological classification that is used to group similar individuals. Sometimes called specific epithet- an adjective or modifier.
 - Variety or cultivar? What's the difference?
Variety: naturally occurring hybridization or crossing between different members of the same species. Written in ‘single quotes’.
Cultivar or cultivated variety: carefully controlled pairings of parent plants by man, with desired result being a successful blend of the parent's best traits.
Cross-breeding and selection is perpetuated asexually to preserve outstanding characteristics (cuttings, grafting, tissue culture) and are genetically identical clones of the original plant.
 - What's with the X or x? Intergeneric crosses or interspecific crosses.
Viola x wittrockiana, *Petunia x hybrida*, *Magnolia x soulangeana*, *Osmanthus x fortunei*, *Abelia x grandiflora*, *Hippeastrum x hybridum*, *Photenia x fraseri*, *Ilex x attenuata* and others.
X Fatshadera lizei, *X Cupressocyparis leylandii*
What is a grex? A term used in hybridization of orchids.

- III. What do they mean?** Generally the name of a plant will indicate something about that plant. Descriptive features include:
- a. Color:
 - What color is the flower?
 - White: *alba*
 - Red: *rubra, rosea, coccinea* *Acer rubrum, Salvia coccinea*
 - Yellow or Gold: *aurea, argentea*
 - Purple: *purpurea* *Echinacea purpurea*
 - Green: *verdis*
 - Black: *nigra* *Quercus nigra* (water oak), *Betula nigra* (River Birch)
 - Two colors: *bicolor* *Caladium bicolor*
 - Changing colors: *mutabilis*
 - What color is the foliage?
 - Variegations: *variegata*
 - b. Growth habit: How does the plant grow?
 - Upright: *erecta* *Tagetes erecta*
 - Spreading: *repens, reptans, horizontalis* *Duranta repens, Ajuga reptans, Serenoa repens* (saw palmetto), *Juniperus horizontalis*
 - Drooping or weeping: *pendula*
 - Tree like: *-dendron*
 - In water: *aquafolium*
 - Footed: *podium*
 - c. Discovery: Who discovered the plant? Who is it named for?
 - Linnaeus: *linneaus*
 - Waller: *walleriana* *Impatiens walleriana*
 - Stokes: *Stokesia*
 - Forsythe: *Forsythia* *Forsythia x intermedia*
 - Fortune: *fortunei* *Mahonia fortunei*
 - d. Region: What country is home to this plant?
 - China: *chinense or sinense* *Juniperus chinensis, Wisteria sinensis*
 - Japan: *japonica* *Camellia japonica, Cleyera japonica, Fatsia japonica, Aucuba japonica*
 - Florida: *floridana, floridanum* *Weigela florida, Cornus florida, Zamia floridana*
 - Virginia: *virginiana* *Quercus virginiana*
 - Carolina: *caroliniana* *Prunus caroliniana* (Cherry Laurel)
 - Canary Islands: *canariensis* *Hedera canariensis*
 - America: *americana* *Calycarpa americana, Osmanthus americana*
 - Asia: *asiatic, orientalis* *Trachelospernum asiaticum, Agapanthus orientalis*
 - e. Texture: What does it feel like?
 - Hairy: *pubescens*
 - Waxy: *cerifera, glabrous*
 - Shiny:
 - f. Shape: What does the shape remind you of?
 - Heart: *cordata*
 - Hand: *palmate* *Acer palmatum*
 - Spear or lance: *lanceolata* *Pentas lanceolata*

Round: rotundifolia, obtusa, revoluta *Ligustrum rotundifolia*,
Cycas revoluta,

Egg: ovate

Triangle: pyramidalis

Butterfly: papilionaceous

Tulip: tulipifera *Liriodendron tulipifera*

Feather: pinnate

Margins: serrata,

g. Size: How big is it?

Large: grandiflora, macrophylla, major *Magnolia grandiflora*,
Campsis grandiflora (Trumpet creeper), *Podocarpus macrophyllus*

Small: nana, minima, microphylla, minor *Vinca minor*

How many? monophylla, bilabiate, biloba, bifurcatum trifoliolate, penta
Ginkgo biloba, *Platycerus bifurcatum*, *Poncirus trifoliata* (Native orange)

Length: longifolium *Lilium longiflorum*

h. Fragrance: What does it smell like?

Citrus: citrinus, lemonii *Callistemon citrinus*,

Fragrant: fragrans *Lonicera fragrantissima*

Cinnamon: *Cinnamomon camphora*,

Odor: odoritissima *Viburnum odoratissimum*

Like jasmine: jasminoides *Gardenia jasminoides*