

Becky's Botanical Glossary II

The definitions below are a companion for the May 2023 article *Botany 101: Herbaceous Plants Part 3*

All definitions are from the National Gardening Association's Dictionary of Horticulture unless otherwise stated.

- **Flower:** that part of a seed plant that usually bears the reproductive organs, especially when brightly colored or otherwise conspicuous
- **Pedicel:** the stalk of a flower
- **Peduncle:** a stalk supporting a solitary flower or flower cluster
- **Blade:** the lamina, or broad part, of a leaf, petal, sepal, etc., as distinguished from the petiole, or leafstalk
- **Claw:** the narrow base of a petal, especially when it is long, as in pinks and wallflowers
- **Spur:** a slender hollow projection from some part of a flower, as from the calyx of columbine and larkspur and the corolla of violets
- **Receptacle:** the enlarged end of the stem of a flower upon which the reproductive organs of the flower are borne
- **Pistil:** the female or ovule-bearing organ of a flower. A complete pistil consists of three parts: ovary, style and stigma
- **Carpel:** a simple pistil, or one of the several members composing a compound pistil or fruit. In a general sense, it is the organ of a plant that bears ovules
- **Ovary:** the enlarged, rounded, usually basal, ovule-bearing part of a pistil, ultimately becoming the fruit
- **Ovule:** an outgrowth of the ovary, which upon fertilization, becomes the seed
- **Stigma:** the part of the pistil of a flower, usually on the tip of the style or ovary, which receives the pollen and on which it germinates
- **Style:** a narrow, usually elongated part of the pistil connecting the ovary with a stigma
- **Stamen:** the male reproductive, pollen-bearing organ of flowering plants, consisting of the filament and the anther
- **Filament:** the threadlike stalk of a stamen that bears the anther
- **Anther:** the part of a stamen that contains the pollen, usually located at the end of a slender stalk often in the center of a blossom
- **Imperfect:** having the pistils and stamens in separate flowers
- **Perfect:** a flower that contains complete sets of both male and female reproductive parts
- **Perianth:** the floral envelope, especially when it is not clearly differentiated into calyx and corolla.
- **Calyx:** in general, the outer set of the envelopes that form or enclose the base of a flower; collective term for all the sepals in a flower
- **Calyx tube:** tubular portion of calyx formed by fusion of lower portions of sepals
(<https://www2.victoriacollege.edu/dept/bio/flower/key/terms/glossary.htm>)
- **Sepal:** one of the individual modified leaves, usually green, that make up the calyx, or outer circle of floral envelopes
- **Corolla:** the inner set of floral leaves or petals of a flower, within the calyx and immediately surrounding the stamens and pistil
- **Petal:** one of the individual, usually colored parts of the corolla of a flower
- **Eye:** the center of a flower when differently colored than the petals
- **Corona:** a crownlike appendage or series of united appendages on the inner side of a corolla. It often resembles an outgrowth of the perianth, as in the daffodil, or of the staminal circle, as in the milkweed.
- **Tepal:** when the calyx and corolla are not clearly differentiated, as in tulips and begonias, the proper name for one of the petal-like parts is tepal
- **Ligulate:** strap-shaped, such as a corolla, leaf, or petal
- **Ligule:** a strap-shaped plant part; the blade formed by the corolla in some or all the florets of many members of the compositae family
- **Floral tube:** tubular portion of corolla formed by fusion of lower portions of petals
(<https://www2.victoriacollege.edu/dept/bio/flower/key/terms/glossary.htm>)
- **Inflorescence:** the flowering part of a plant; the arrangement of flowers on a plant
- **Capitulescence:** similar to inflorescence. They both refer to the parts of a plant where the flowers are located, or to the arrangement of the flowers on a plant. "Capitulescence" is a term that was created by botanists to describe the complexity found in some species, such as asters and goldenrods.
(<http://www.nttlphoto.com/botany/asters-goldenrods/Glossary/inflorescence.htm>)
- **Capitulescence:** a compound inflorescence made of capitula instead of individual flowers.

(<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/capitulescence>)

- **Capitulum:** A type of inflorescence, found mostly in the *Asteraceae* (aster family) composed of many flowers borne on an expanded receptacle and subtended by a common involucre (plural: capitula).
(<https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/glossary/c/>)
- **Capitula:** A compact cluster of sessile flowers, often surrounded by involucre bracts, as of daisies and other composite plants. (<https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/glossary/c/>)
- **Raceme:** a spikelike stalk upon which numerous flowers are borne on individual stems
- **Spike:** an elongated, stemlike prominence upon which multiple flowers are borne
- **Corymb:** a short, broad, flat-topped or somewhat convex flower cluster
- **Cyme:** a flower, usually broad and somewhat flat-topped
- **Umbel:** a flower cluster, usually rounded, with all stems springing from the same point, as in Queen Ann's lace
- **Compound Umbel:** an umbel where each stalk of the main umbel produces another smaller umbel of flowers
(Wikipedia glossary of Plant Morphology)
- **Whorl:** a circle of radiating leaves, flowers, or other organs around a common center, on the same plane
- **Verticillaster:** a form of inflorescence in which the flowers are arranged in a seeming whorl, consisting of a pair of opposite, axillary, usually sessile, cymes or clusters, as in many of the mints
- **Panicle:** a loosely branched, pyramidal flower cluster
- **Composite:** the largest family of plants...The flowers are compound, often with petallike rays around a flat center; flowers that occur in dense heads atop a specialized set of bracts called phyllaries; overall aspect sunflower-like or daisy-like (<https://www2.victoriacollege.edu/dept/bio/flower/key/terms/glossary.htm>)
- **Head:** a short, compact cluster of flowers; dense cluster of flowers atop an involucre of specialized bracts called phyllaries; entire cluster appears daisy-like or sunflower-like and is often mistakenly referred to as one "flower"
(<https://www2.victoriacollege.edu/dept/bio/flower/key/terms/glossary.htm>)
- **Disk:** in plants such as asters and sunflowers, the buttonlike center of the flower; a fleshy enlargement of the receptacle in some flowers
- **Ray flower:** one of the petallike parts of the flowers of many of the *Compositae*
- **Disk flower:** in the *Compositae*, one of the minute tubular components of the central area of the flower head
- **Floret:** a small flower, especially when in a cluster or in a multiple-flowered inflorescence, as in the flowers of the *Compositae* family
- **Involucre:** any collection of whorls of small leaves or bracts beneath a flower or an inflorescence; collective term for all the phyllaries beneath a composite flower head
(<https://www2.victoriacollege.edu/dept/bio/flower/key/terms/glossary.htm>)
- **Bract:** a leaf in a flower cluster or a leaf base of a flower, usually differing somewhat from an ordinary leaf in size, form, or texture; often much reduced but occasionally large and showy; a specialized leaf occurring beneath a flower and usually appearing petal-like
(<https://www2.victoriacollege.edu/dept/bio/flower/key/terms/glossary.htm>)
- **Phyllary:** one of the bracts forming the involucre of flowers of the *Compositae*; specialized, scale-like bract, generally several or many in a series, that occur directly beneath a composite flower head and collectively form the involucre
(<https://www2.victoriacollege.edu/dept/bio/flower/key/terms/glossary.htm>)