

Plant Anatomy Primer



This primer is not comprehensive, but covers the botanical terminology mentioned in this guide.

Vegetation Type:

- **Perennial** plants can live 3 or more years as opposed to annuals that must reseed each year. Perennials may not flower in their first couple growing seasons.
- **Herbaceous** plants have no woody tissue; For most herbaceous perennial species, their aboveground parts die back and regrow seasonally each year.
- **Shrubs** are short woody plants that often have many stems.

Leaves: A flat, typically green structure that originates at nodes, just below growth points

Arrangements



Opposite



Alternate



Whorled

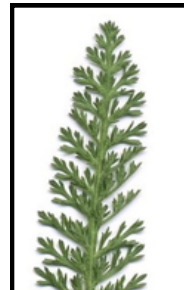
Shapes and Lobes



Lance-shaped



Pinnately lobed



Bipinnately lobed



Palmately lobed

Compound leaves (composed of smaller leaflets)



Pinnately compound



Bipinnately compound



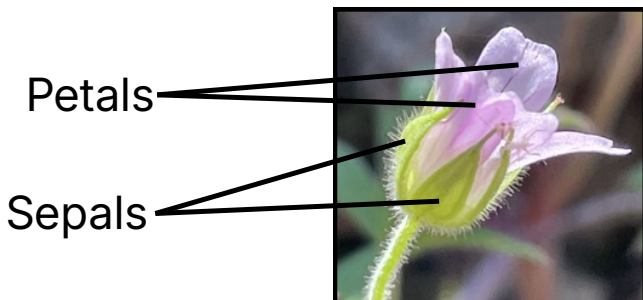
Palmately compound

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Flowers: Flowers generally have sepals, petals, male parts for dispensing pollen, and female parts receiving pollen and creating fruits.



Male parts

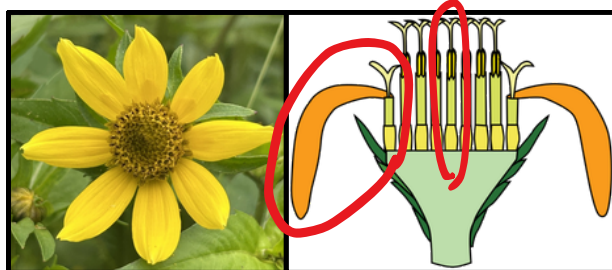
Female parts



Inflorescence: A group of flowers on a plant. They can be arranged in a variety of ways.



Racemes have stalked flowers along the stem.



Composite plants have flower heads composed of many tiny flowers (florets). Right: Ray floret circle the on left and disc floret on the right.



Heads and individual flowers can be arranged in a variety of branched arrays.

Fruit types: Dehiscent fruits split open to release seeds. Indehiscent fruits do not split open and can be dry or wet (fleshy) inside.



Dry, dehiscent



Dry, indehiscent



Wet, indehiscent