
APPENDIX 14

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following definitions are derived from *Rocky Mountain Flora*, by William A. Weber; and *Weeds of the West*, Tom D. Whitson, Editor.

Achene- A small, dry, one-seed fruit that does not split at maturity, such as a sunflower “seed”.

Acute- Ending in a sharp point.

Adventitious- In an unusual or unexpected place.

Alleopathic substances- chemical compounds formed by plants that interfere with the growth of other plants.

Alternate- (leaves) Having one leaf arising at each node. (Floral parts) Having the members of one whorl attached between the members of the next outer or inner whorl.

Anthesis- Flowering, when pollination takes place.

Annual- Living through one season only.

Ascending- Growing upward or curving upward during growth.

Awn- A slender, usually terminal bristle.

Axil- The angle between a leaf and stem. Buds, for example, are found in the axils of leaves, that is, at the place where the leaf joins the stem.

Basal- (leaves) Produced at ground level.

Biennial- A plant that lives two years.

Bract- A small leaf-like structure below a flower.

Calyx- The outer parts of a flower composed of usually leaf-like parts called sepals.

Cauline- (leaves) Borne on the stem, above ground. The opposite of basal leaves.

Compound- (leaves) Divided into a number of similar parts.

Deciduous- Leaves falling at maturity or at the end of a growing season.

Disk flower- A tubular flower found in members of the sunflower family.

Dissected- cut into numerous, narrow segments.

Elliptical- Oval or oblong with rounded ends and more than twice as long as broad.

Entire- Leaf margins that are not cut or toothed.

Floret- A small flower, specifically applied to the flowers of grasses and composites.

Glabrous- Smooth, without hairs.

Glandular- Having glands; sticky.

Herbaceous- Not woody.

Inflorescence- The flowering part of a plant.

Involucre- A circle of bracts under a flower cluster.

Irregular- Showing inequality in the size, shape, or arrangement of the parts.

Lanceolate- Lance-shaped.

Leaflet- One small blade of a compound leaf.

Ligule- (grasses) A thin, flap of tissue or fringe of hairs from the base of the blade.

Linear- Long and narrow with parallel sides.

Lobed- Cut into shallow segments.

Node- A point on the stem where one or more leaves are attached.

Ob lanceolate- Lance-shaped, tapering at both ends with the broadest part at tip end.

Oblong- Rectangular in general outline but with corners rounded.

Opposite- (leaves) Arranged on the same node at the opposite side of the stem.

Ovary- The seed-bearing part of the flower.

Ovate- Egg-shaped with the broader part at the base.

Panicle- A loose, irregularly compound flowering part of a plant with flowers borne on individual stalks.

Pappus- Bristles, scales, awns or short crown at the tip of achenes in flowers of the sunflower family.
The “parachute” of a dandelion is an example.

Pedicel- Stalk of a single flower.

Peduncle- Stalk of a flower cluster

Perennial- A plant living more than two years

Petiole- Stem or stalk of a leaf

Phyllaries- The bracts of the involucre in Compositae. In dandelion, for example, each of the green bracts surrounding the head is one phyllary.

Prostrate- Lying flat on the ground.

Pubescent- Covered with hairs.

Raceme- Arrangement of flowers along a stem on individual stalks about equal in length.

Rachis- The main stem bearing flowers or leaves.

Ray flower- The strap-shaped marginal flowers of Compositae (the “petals” of daisies). Although they resemble petals, each ray-flower is complete with corolla and, usually, essential organs.

Receptacle- The part of the stem to which the flower is attached.

Rhizomatous- Having rhizomes

Rhizome- Underground stem, usually lateral, sending out shoots above ground and roots below.

Rosette- Compact cluster of leaves radiating at ground level often in a circle.

Ruderal- Growing in waste places or among rubbish.

Scale- Thin, dry membrane, usually a modified leaf.

Sessile- Lacking a stalk.

Sheath- Lower part of leaf which surrounds the stem.

Simple leaves- Unbranched, not compound.

Spatulate- Spoon shaped, with a narrow base and wide top.

Spike- An elongated inflorescence with sessile flowers.

Spp.- species, plural.

Ssp.- subspecies.

Stamen- The pollen-producing organ of a flower, situated between the petals and the carpel.

Striate- Marked with parallel lines or ridges.

Subtended- Underneath, directly below and close to.

Toothed- Sawteeth-like projections on the margins of the blades.

Umbel- A flat or rounded flower cluster in which the stalks radiate from the same point, like the ribs of an umbrella.

Veins- Ribs of a leaf, vascular bundles of a leaf.

Whorl- A cluster of several leaves, branches or flowers around a stem, which arise from a common node.