



## Flower Vocabulary

**Angiosperm** – a flowering plant

**Anther** – part of the *stamen* that contains the *pollen*, located on the *filament*

**Androecium** – refers to all the parts that make up the male part of the flower; all of the *stamens* together

**Bract** – leaves that are found at the base of the *pedicel* of the flower, can sometimes have bright colors and look like petals (as in bougainvilleas)

**Calyx** – all of the *sepals* together

**Carpel** – general term for the female organ of the flower, including the *ovary*, *ovules*, *style* and *stigma*

**Carpellate flower** - one that only has female parts

**Corolla** – term used to describe all of the *petals* of a flower; all of the petals together

**Cross-pollination** – when a plant is *pollinated* by *pollen* from another plant of the same species

**Dispersal** – the process of distributing seeds to other locations, usually through wind, water, or an animal carrier

**Dioecious** – plants that have *carpellate* (female) and *staminate* (male) flowers on separate individual plants; plants that have separate “male” and “female” individuals

**Embryo** - the young, unformed plant within the *seed*

**Endosperm** – the nutritive tissue of the seed, provides nutrients for the *embryo*

**Filament** – part of the *androecium* that supports the *anther*

**Fertilization** – the union of two *gametes* that results in the formation of an embryo or *seed*

**Fruit** – a structure that contains the seeds of a plant (it is not always edible)

**Gametes** - a mature male or female germ cell usually possessing one set of chromosomes, capable of forming a new individual that has two sets of chromosomes by fusion with a gamete of the opposite sex

**Gynoecium** – refers to all the parts that make up the female part of the flower; all of the *carpels* together

**Inflorescence** – a group of flowers on a stem; a flower cluster

**Monoecious** – plants that have separate carpellate (female) and staminate (male) flowers on a single individual

**Nectar** – a liquid sugar substance that some flowers produce as an attractant and reward for insect and animal pollinators

**Ovary** – part of the *gynoecium* that contains the *ovules*, the part that becomes the fruit

**Ovule** – area in the *ovary* that contains the egg, is fertilized and develops into a seed

**Pedicle** – the stalk or stem that supports the flower

**Perianth** – the outer *whorls* of the flower, including the *sepals* and *petals*

**Perfect flower** – a flower with both male and female parts.

**Petal** – structures that surround the sex organs of the flower, often serve as advertisements to *pollinators*

**Pistil** – see *carpel*

**Pistillate flower** – see *carpellate flower*

**Pollen** – dust like particles that contain male *gametes*

**Pollen tube** - a tube that is formed by a *pollen* grain and conveys the sperm cells to the *ovule*

**Pollination** – the process of *pollen* being delivered to the *stigma* of a flower, the first step of *fertilization*

**Pollination Syndrome** – the characteristics of a flower such as shape, color and odor which to some degree help predict what pollinates it

**Pollinator** – an animal or insect, which feeds on *nectar*, *pollen* or flower parts and inadvertently pollinates the flowers that it visits

**Receptacle** – part of the flower to which all sex organs and *perianth* structures (petals and sepals) are attached

**Sepal** – the whorl below the *petals*, leaf like structures that support other flower parts

**Stamen** – general term for the male organ of the flower, including the *filament* and *anther*

**Staminate flower** – one that has only male parts

**Self compatible** – a flower that is able to reproduce using its own *pollen*

**Self incompatible** – a flower that cannot reproduce using its own *pollen*, but requires pollen from another plant

**Stigma** – the receptive part of the *gynoecium*; where the *pollen* gets deposited

**Style** – part of the *gynoecium* that supports the *stigma* and connects the *stigma* to the *ovary*

**Seed** – structure that contains the *embryo* of a plant, which has the potential to produce a new plant

**Tepals** – when a flower does not have separate *calyx* (sepals) and *corolla* (petals), but only one whorl of *perianth*; looks like petals with no sepals

**Whorl** – an arrangement of three or more similar structures at a common point. Flowers are arranged in whorls – the outermost whorl is the *calyx* (sepals), the next whorl is the *corolla* (petals), and the inner whorls consist of the *androecium* and *gynoecium*