

Words for a Day at Fairchild

Botany - the scientific study of plants.

Botanical Name - the scientific name of a plant used internationally, as opposed to its common name which can vary from place to place.

Botanist - one who studies plants; a plant biologist.

Cycad - a group of ancient plants that evolved before the dinosaurs. They do not produce flowers, but do produce seeds in cones, like pine trees.

Ecosystem - a community of animals, plants, and microscopic life that interact together in the environment.

Epiphyte - a plant that grows attached to another plant or object, not rooted in the ground. Epiphytes obtain nutrients from the rain and debris that fall into it, and are often found growing on the branches and trunks of trees. They do not typically harm the plants they grow on.

Fern - a primitive plant that reproduces using spores instead of flowers and seeds.

Flower - the blossom of a plant that contains reproductive organs.

Fruit - the part that develops from a flower and contains seeds.

Inflorescence - a flowering structure that consists of more than one flower.

Leaf - the part that uses solar energy to produce food for the plant.

Leaf Scar - a mark left on the plant stem or trunk where a leaf was attached.

Palmate - a leaf with leaflets or veins all coming out from a center point, shaped like your hand with the fingers extended.

Photosynthesis - the process that plants use to make their own food.

Pinnate - a leaf with leaflets or veins along a central stalk, thus having a feather like appearance.

Root - the part that holds the plant in place and takes in water and nutrients from the soil.

Stem/Trunk - the part that carries water and nutrients throughout the plant, while providing structural support.

