

Words for a Day at Fairchild

Brackish - a combination of salt and fresh water.

Canopy - the highest level of plant growth in a forest.

Consumer - an organism that feeds on plants and/or animals.

Decay - the slow break down (decomposition) of plant material.

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

Elevation - the rise of land that is measured by units above sea level.

Epiphyte - a plant that grows on another plant or tree; it derives its nutrients from the rain and debris that fall into it.

Erosion - the wearing away of the land by water or wind.

Estuary - an aquatic area in which fresh water from rivers mixes with salt water from the ocean.

Exotic - having been introduced to an area where the organism would not naturally be found.

Food Web - a series of interconnected food chains that show predator-prey relationships.

Hammock - an area of higher ground that supports a community of plants that are different from those in lower elevations.

Marl - soil that contains limestone.

Native - the area where an organism originated; plants that have lived in South Florida for hundreds of years and were not introduced to the area by humans.

Peat - rich soil made up of decomposing plants.

Producer - an organism that produces its own energy, such as photosynthetic plants.

Understory - the plant layer growing under the canopy, made up mostly of young trees and shrubs.



Epiphyte on tree