

Ethnobotany Vocabulary

Abiotic:	non-living elements in an ecosystem (ex: water, soil, light, oxygen)
Agriculture:	the science and art of domestication and propagation of plants for human use; the science of farming
Agroforestry:	the practice of integrating agriculture with forestry; managing an area of land for both useful tree species (fruits, timbers) and agricultural crops (corn, beans, coffee etc.). Usually practiced in tropical ecosystems
Anthropology:	the study of human cultures, customs and social relationships
Biodiversity:	the variety among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems
Biopiracy:	refers to taking biological resources without paying or otherwise compensating the country where these resources were found
Biotic:	living elements in an ecosystem (plants, animals)
Domestication:	the process of propagating and breeding plants and animals for the purposes of human use, often to the point that the plant or animal can no longer survive in the wild without human help
Ecology:	the branch of Biology that deals with the relations between living organisms and their environment
Economic Botany:	the study of plants and plant products that have economic markets
Economics:	the production, distribution and consumption of goods or services
Ecosystem:	a system made up of a community of animals, plants and microorganisms and its interrelated physical (water, light) and chemical (oxygen, nitrogen etc.) environment
Ethnobotany:	the science of people's interactions with plants
Ethnobiology:	The study of people's interactions with organisms and ecosystems. This includes studies of the interactions between people and animals (<i>ethnozoology</i>), people and insects (<i>ethnoentomology</i>), people and ecosystems (<i>ethnoecology</i>), as well as people and plants (<i>ethnobotany</i>)
Forestry:	the practice of managing forests for conservation and/or human uses such as timber or non-timber forest products. The science of developing, caring for or cultivating forests
Habitat:	the area where a plant, animal, or other organism lives and grows naturally

Herbarium:	a collection of dried plants that are identified, mounted and used for botanical study; like a plant library
Horticulture:	the science and art of growing flowers, fruits, vegetables and ornamentals, especially in gardens or orchards
Indigenous:	belonging to or originating from a country or region; growing or occurring naturally in an area or environment; not exotic
Informant:	a person who serves as a source of information, especially with regard to his/her inherent knowledge about his/her culture, customs, language or environment
Linguistics:	the study of human speech and language including the units, nature, and structure of language
Native:	naturally found in a particular area or region; not brought in by humans. In South Florida, native refers to any plant or animal that was here before the Spanish arrived
Non-timber forest product (NTFP):	forest products other than timber (ex: medicinal plants, fruits, seeds, latex)
Medicinal:	having the properties of medicine; curing, healing or reviving
Propagation:	reproduction or multiplication of plants or animals
Plant product:	any product that is processed from plants or plant parts, though it may no longer resemble its plant of origin (ex: paper, rubber, cotton clothing)
Rainforests:	an area of forest located at low elevations near the equator with high biological diversity
Slash and burn agriculture:	see swidden agriculture
Sociology:	the science of society, social institutions, and social relationships
Swidden agriculture:	a form of agriculture that involves burning a plot of forest to plant crops, then leaving that plot after a few years when the nutrients are used up and burning a new plot. The old plot is left to fallow and will eventually be burned again
Systematics :	see taxonomy
Taxonomy:	the science of classifying organisms based on their evolutionary relationships to each other (i.e. – mammals, insects, and birds are all taxonomic groups, meaning they evolved from common ancestors)