

Terminology Used With Plumeria

Many times we are reading about plumeria or listening to a talk about research and find ourselves in the midst of technical terminology. This Care Bulletin is meant to serve as a glossary of terms that appear from time to time in discussions of plumeria. It covers the main plant parts including growing tips, flower parts, fruit (seed) and leaf parts. All definitions appearing here refer to use of the word *in the botanical sense only*, primarily in reference to woody plants such as plumeria.

Acuminate. Pointed. Tapering concavely to a slender or acute point.

Apical bud. A bud at the tip of a stem.

Apical dominance. The inhibition of axillary bud growth by the apical bud.

Apical meristem. A region of actively dividing cells at the tip of a growing stem or root.

Axil. The angle between the upper surface of a leaf and the stem to which it is attached.

Axillary bud. A bud located in an axil at the base of a leaf.

Callus. A corky tissue developed by woody species to cover wounds.

Cambium. A lateral meristem in most vascular plants that forms parallel rows of cells resulting in secondary tissues either as secondary growth or as cork.

Chlorophyll. Any of a group of related green pigments found in photosynthetic organisms, *especially*: **1.** A waxy blue-black microcrystalline green-plant pigment, $C_{55}H_{72}MgN_4O_5$, with a characteristic blue-green alcohol solution. Also called *chlorophyll a*. **2.** A similar green-plant pigment, $C_{55}H_{70}MgN_4O_6$, having a brilliant green alcohol solution. Also called *chlorophyll b*. These in plumeria leaves make them look green.

Cork. The protective outer tissue of the bark.

Corolla. All the petals of a flower considered as a group or unit.

Cotyledon. *Botany.* A leaf of the embryo of a seed plant, which, upon germination either remains in the seed or emerges, enlarges, and becomes green. Also called seed leaf; a food storage structure in seeds.

Cultivar. A cultivated variety, produced by horticultural techniques.

Cytokinin. A plant hormone primarily stimulating cell division.

Flower. *n.* **1.** The reproductive structure of some seed-bearing plants, characteristically having either specialized male or female organs or both male and female organs, such as stamens and a pistil, enclosed in an outer envelope of petals and sepals. **2.** Such a structure having showy or colorful parts; a blossom. *v.* To produce a flower or flowers; blossom.

Flowering plant. A plant that produces flowers and fruit; an angiosperm.

Fragrance. **1.** The state or quality of having a pleasant odor. **2.** A sweet or pleasant odor; a scent.

Glabrous. Having a surface without hairs, projections or pubescence; smooth.

Graft. The union of a piece of one plant to another established plant.

Inflorescence. **1.** A characteristic arrangement of flowers and buds on a stem. **2.** A flower cluster.

Leaf scar. A scar left on a stem after a leaf has fallen.

Leaf. A usually green, flattened, lateral structure attached to a stem and functioning as a principal organ of photosynthesis and transpiration in most plants.

Limb. One of the larger branches of a tree.

Meristem. A region where cells actively divide.

N-P-K ratio. The relative proportions of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in a fertilizer.

Obtuse. *a.* Not sharp, pointed, or acute in form; blunt. *b.* Having a blunt or rounded tip.

Ovary. The ovule-bearing lower part of a pistil that ripens into a fruit.

Panicle. A highly branched inflorescence (branched cluster of flowers in which the branches are racemes).

Petal. A unit of a corolla, usually showy and colored.

Petiole. A leaf stalk.

Pistil. The female, ovule-bearing organ of a flower, including the stigma, style, and ovary.

Pollen. The fine, powder like material consisting of pollen grains that is produced by the anthers of seed plants. A structure that develops from a microspore in Angiosperms to become a male gametophyte.

Pollination. To transfer pollen from an anther to the stigma of a flower.

Pubescent. Having short hairs or soft down.

Raceme. An inflorescence in which flowers are borne on short stalks on an elongated stem.

Root. The usually underground portion of a plant that lacks buds, leaves, or nodes and serves as support, anchoring the plant to the soil. A root draws minerals and water from the surrounding soil, and sometimes stores food.

Rootball. *a.* The collective mass of roots and soil in the pot of a containerized plant. *b.* The collective mass of roots and soil attached to the base of a bare rooted plant.

Scion. A plant part (detached shoot or twig containing buds from a woody plant) inserted into a root stock during grafting.

Seed. A ripened plant ovule containing an embryo.

Seedling. A young plant that is grown from a seed.

Seedpod. 1.a. A dehiscent fruit of a leguminous plant such as the pea. **b.** A dry, several-seeded, dehiscent fruit. Also called seedpod (follicle). **2.** A dry, single-chambered fruit that splits along only one seam to release its seeds, as in larkspur and milkweed.

Stamen. The pollen-producing reproductive organ of a flower, usually consisting of a filament and an anther.

Stem. a. The main ascending axis of a plant; a stalk or trunk. **b.** A slender stalk supporting or connecting another plant part, such as a leaf or flower.

Stigma. The receptive apex of the pistil of a flower, on which pollen is deposited at pollination.

Stock. A rooted plant into which a scion is inserted during grafting.

Style. The usually slender part of a pistil, situated between the ovary and the stigma.

Terminal bud. The apical bud.

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