

## Plant Science and Horticultural Glossary

<b>Acid Soil</b>	Soil with a pH measure below 7, also called sour soil. Most soils in the eastern third of the United States, Canada and the West Coast are naturally acid.
<b>Aeration</b>	Introduction of air to compacted soil by mechanically removing plugs of topsoil. Aeration helps oxygen, water, fertilizer and organic matter to reach roots. Also, incorporating air into compost by turning the pile. Incorporating air into compost helps the plant material decompose more quickly.
<b>Agronomy</b>	Applied agricultural science dealing with rural economy and husbandry. In recent years it has concentrated mainly in the theory and practice of crop production and soil management.
<b>Alkaline Soil</b>	Soils in central Pa. where limestone is present are usually alkaline. Acidic loving plants (Ericaceous Plants) such as Rhododendron and Mountain Laurel, will need soil supplements to establish themselves successfully.
<b>Amendments</b>	Organic or mineral materials, such as peat moss, compost, perlite, to name a few that are used to improve the soil.
<b>Annual</b>	A plant that germinates, grows, flowers, produces seed and dies in the course of a single growing season.
<b>Biennial</b>	A plant sown one year to flower or fruit the next, then dying or being discarded. Many vegetables are biennial, but are treated as annuals and harvested in their first year before they have flowered.
<b>Compost</b>	Humus made by decomposing vegetative matter in a compost bin or pile.
<b>Cool-season grasses</b>	Grasses that thrive in northern areas, including Canada, and in high elevations in the South, such as blue grass or fescue.
<b>Cross-Pollination</b>	The transfer of pollen from one plant variety to another.

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<b>Crown</b>	The part of a plant where the roots and stem meet, usually at soil level.
<b>Cultivars</b>	A cultivated variety of plant, often bred for a desired trait, such as pest or disease resistance, flower color, fruit color &/or persistence, habit / size, foliage color / texture, etc..
<b>Damping-Off</b>	A fungal disease that attacks seedlings, causing them to shrivel at the base. Damping-off is brought on by one of several fungi, including Pythium and Rhizoctonia, which thrive in stagnant air and high humidity.
<b>Deadhead</b>	To remove old flowers to prevent seedpods from forming.
<b>Dormant</b>	Alive but in a state of suspended animation until all conditions are right for growth.
<b>Drainage</b>	The movement of water through the soil. With good drainage, water disappears from a planting hole in less than a few hours. If water remains standing overnight, drainage is poor.
<b>Drip Irrigation</b>	This is the practice of applying water slowly through various types of pipes, tubes or specialized hoses. The simplest form would be the use of soaker hoses commonly found in garden centers. More sophisticated systems can be installed by homeowners or irrigation contractors that are preset to go on by a computer.
<b>Endophytes</b>	Fungi that live in some grasses (called endophytic) and make them harmful or deadly to a variety of above ground grass-eating insects.
<b>Exposure</b>	The intensity, duration and variation in sun, wind and temperature that characterize any particular lawn or planting site.
<b>Full Shade</b>	A site that receives no direct sun during the growing season
<b>Full Sun</b>	A site that receives at least eight hours of direct sun each day during the growing season.
<b>Grade</b>	The degree and direction of slope on an area of ground.
<b>Ground Cover</b>	A plant, such as ivy, Loire or juniper, used to cover the soil and form a continuous low mass of foliage. Often used as a substitute for turf grass, especially in shade, embankments, or other areas where turf grasses don't perform well or are difficult to maintain.
<b>Hardiness</b>	A plant's ability to survive the winter without protection from the cold. The temperature range in which a plant will grow and thrive. Cold is usually the main consideration; however, heat and humidity can also cause plants to fail.
<b>Hardiness Zone</b>	Typically, the regions where the coldest winter temperatures occur will determine the zone, such as 0 to -10 (Zone 6, according to the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map). More recently, the heat and humidity are being considered as equally limiting and upper hardiness zones are beginning to be listed as well. Additionally, it should be noted that Zone 7 on the West Coast and Zone 7 on the East Coast are not the same climates due to humidity, rainfall, number of days below freezing, cloud cover, etc.

<b>Heat Zone</b>	A region determined by the average annual number of days its temperatures climb above 86°F.
<b>Herbicide</b>	A chemical used to kill plants. Permanent herbicides, <i>pre-emergents</i> , are used to kill weed seeds as they sprout and thus to prevent weed growth. Post emergent herbicides kill plants that are already growing.
<b>Humus</b>	Thoroughly decayed organic matter. Added to lawns gardens or beds, it will increase a soil's water-holding capacity, improve aeration and support beneficial microbial life in the soil.
<b>Invasive</b>	A species of plant, animal or insect that is 1) non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and 2) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. (Executive Order 13112). Plants such as purple loosestrife, multiflora rose and Japanese honeysuckle, <i>among others</i> , are considered invasive in the Pennsylvania area.
<b>Irrigation</b>	This is the practice of applying supplemental water to plant and lawn areas. New regulations in most states require the computer that automatically turns on sprinklers or drip emitters to apply water only as needed based on recent rains. An exterior water meter sends the recent rainfall totals to the computer to help monitor the water needed so as not to waste water that does not need to be applied. It also helps the plants to prevent them from getting too much water that can often lead to disease and death.
<b>Landscape</b>	This is "the lay of the land" which includes plants and other physical features such as lawn or meadow areas, waterways, pavement, utilities, structures, etc. Mistakenly used to refer only to planting in many instances.
<b>Lime, Limestone</b>	A white or grayish mineral compound used to reduce soil acidity and to supply calcium for plant growth.
<b>Loam</b>	An ideal soil type for growing, loam contains an equal balance of sand, silt and clay. <i>It has benefits of both clay and sand in that it will hold moisture and organic compounds, yet it is porous and will drain well.</i>
<b>Microclimate</b>	Conditions of sun, shade, exposure, wind, drainage and other factors that affect plant growth at any particular site.
<b>Mulch</b>	A layer of bark, peat moss, compost, shredded leaves, hay or straw, lawn clippings, gravel, paper, plastic or other material spread over the soil around the base of plants. During the growing season, mulch can help retard evaporation, inhibit weeds and moderate soil temperature. In the winter, mulch of evergreen boughs, coarse hay or leaves is used to protect plants from freezing.
<b>Organic Matter</b>	Plant and animal residues, such as leaves, trimmings and manure, in various stages of decomposition.
<b>Overseeding</b>	Spreading seed over established turf that has been prepared for restoration.
<b>Native</b>	A plant that occurs naturally in a particular region and was not introduced from some other area.
<b>Node</b>	A joint in plants from which leaves emerge.

<b>Nutrients</b>	Nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sulfur, iron and other elements needed by growing plants and supplied by minerals and organic matter in soil and by fertilizers.
<b>Perennial</b>	A plant that lives more than two years or three seasons and normally flowers annually. Many die down during the winter but the roots are unaffected by frost and new growth appears as the weather improves and the temperature rises.
<b>Plugs</b>	Young perennials or grasses used to cover large areas of beds or lawns; so-called because they are “plugged” into small holes drilled or dug into the soil. .
<b>Rhizomes</b>	Underground runners of some types of plants that extend laterally to create new plants.
<b>Seedling</b>	A young plant grown from seed.
<b>Stolons</b>	Aboveground runners from which some grasses, particularly warm season varieties, spread.
<b>Subsoil</b>	A light-colored soil layer of varying consistencies found beneath the topsoil. It contains little or no humus.
<b>Tillers</b>	Aboveground sideshoots of some types of grass plants.
<b>Warm-season grasses</b>	Grasses that grow best in southern regions, thriving in the heat of summer, such as Bermuda or zoysia
<b>Weed</b>	Any undesirable plant or grass species; any plant growing where you don’t want it.