

**SOME TERMS
USED IN THE
SCIENTIFIC NAMES
FOR PLANTS**

Katherine Dunster

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Cover set in Eric Gill's Perpetua Titling (1929) 18 & 24 pt
Body Text in Eric Gill's Gill Sans (1926) 9/11/18 pt

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*“You don’t draw an A and then stand back and say: ‘there, that gives you a good idea of an A as seen through an autumn mist’, or: ‘that’s not a real A but gives you a good effect of one.’ Letters are things, not pictures of things.
- Eric Gill*

“It’s not all Latin” - K. Dunster

Aa

a-	not
abies-	fir
acantho / acanthus	spiny, thorny
accolus	dwells near, neighbours
aceri-	maple, bitter
acerbus	bitter
acerosus	needle-shaped (like a pine)
-aceus	like, resembling
acicularis	needle-like
acid-	sour, acidic
acrenulatus	fairly crenate, scalloped
acris	acid, sharp
acrotriche	hairy-lipped
actino-	rayed, star-like
aculeatus	prickly
acuminatus	long-pointed, tapering
-adelphus	group, bundle
aden-	glands
admirabilis	wonderful
adnatus	attached the whole length
adpressus	lying flat against
adscendens	ascending
aduncus / aduncatus	hooked
advenus	foreign, newly-arrived
aemulus / aemulans	rivaling, imitating
aequi- / aequalis	equal
aequinoctialis	mid-tropical
aerius	aerial
aeruginosus	verdigris, rusty-coloured
aestival / aestivalis / aestivalus	summer
affinis	related
aggregatus	clustered
agrarius / agrestis	cultivated land, fields
agrifolius	scabby-leaved
alatus	winged
albi-	white
alci-	elk
algidus	cold
alienus	alien, foreign
alliaceus	onion-like, garlic-like
allochrous	changing colour
alni-	alder

viridulus	greenish
viscidus / viscosus	sticky
vitaceus	vine-like
vitellinus	egg-yolk reddish-yellow
viti-	grape
vittatus	longitudinally striped
vittiformis	band-shaped
viviparus	germinating while still attached to parent
volubilis	twining
volutus	rolled-up leaves
-vorus	-devouring
vulcanicus	volcanoes
vulgaris / vulgatus	common
-vulnerus	wounded or marked

Xx

xanthi- / xantho	yellow
xero-	dry
xiph-	sword-like
-xylon	relating to wood
xylon-	woody

Zz

zebrinus	zebra-striped
zibethinus	civet-smell, malodorous
zonatim	in a zoned manner
zonatus	zoned, banded
-zonus	-zone
zygo-	joined, yoked

Vv

vacillans	swaying or swinging to and fro
vagans	wandering
vaginalis /vaginatus	sheathed
validus	strong, robust-growing
-valvis	valved
varians	varying
variatus	variable
variegatus	variegated
vegetabilis	belonging to plants
vegetus	vigorous
velatus	covered, concealed
velox	rapidly growing, swift
velutinus	velvety
venenatus	poisonous
venosus	veins
venustus	beautiful, graceful
verecundus	modest, blushing
vermicularis	worm-shaped
vernalis	spring (season)
vernicosus	varnished
verrucosus	warty
versi-	inverse
verticillaris	whorled
verus	true, genuine, standard
vesiculosus	little bladders
vescus	weak, thin, feeble
vespertinus	belonging to the evening, western
vestitus	covered, clothed
vexans	puzzling
vexillarius	standard petal larger than the others
viaticus	growing along roads or paths
villosus	soft-hairy
viminalis	bearing shoots for weaving (osiers)
vimineus	having long flexible shoots for wicker-work (osiers)
vini-	wine
vinosus	wine-coloured
violaceus	violet
virens	green
virgatus	twiggy
virginalis	virgin, pure
virgineus	pure white
viridi-	green

aqueus	clear as water
arachnoides	spidery, cobwebby
arborescens /arboreus	becoming tree-like, woody
arbuscula	a small tree
arctos	bear
arenarius	growing on sand
areolatus	pitted, marked out into small angular spaces
argentatus /argenteus	silver
argill /argyraeus	clay
argo-	silver
argutus	sharp, sharp-toothed
aridus	arid
arietinus	like a ram's head
arist- /atus /osus	bearded
armatus	armed
armillaris	collared
aromaticus	aromatic
arrectus	erect
arthro-	jointed
articulatus	articulate, jointed
arundinaceus	reed-like
arvensis	cultivated fields
asari-	ginger
ascendens	ascending
asperratus /asper-	rough
assimilis	similar
assurgens /assurgenti-	ascending
-aster	aster
asterinus	aster-violet
-ater	coal-black
atomarius /atomatus	tiny-speckled
atratus	blackened, dark
atro-	dark
attenuatus	pointed
augusti-	notable, majestic
auranti-	golden
aurantiacus	orange-red
aureolus /aureus	golden
auriculatus	eared
australis /australinus	southern
autumnalis	autumn
avenis	veinless
avium	birds
axillaris	axillary
azureus	azure

Bb

baccans /baccatus	has berries
bacci-	berries
bambusoides	bamboo-like
barbarus	foreign
barbatulus	somewhat bearded
barbiatus /barbigera	bearded, barbed
basilaris	base, bottom
bellidi-	beautiful
bellus	handsome
benedictus	blessed
betaceus	beet-like
betula.	birch
betulinus	birch-like
bi-	two
biennis	biennial
binatus	twin
bisectus	bisected
bistortus	twice-twisted
bisulcatus	two-grooved
bituminosus	coal-black
blandus	mild
blephari-	fringed
bonus	good
borealis	northern
botrys /botryoides	clustered, grape-like
brachiatus	branched at right angles
brachy-	short
bracteatus /bracteosus	bracted
brassica-	mustard
brevi-	short
brilliant	brilliant
bronchialis	bronchial
brunneus	deep brown
bucephalus	ox-headed
bufonius	toad
bulbi-	bulb
-bulbon	bulbs
bulbosus	bulbous
bullatus	blistered, puckered
-bundus	many
buxi-	box

tremulus	trembling, quaking
tri-	three
-triche /tricho	hairs
trichotomus.	three-branched or forked
tristis	sad, bitter, dull
triternatus	thrice in threes
trivialis	common, ordinary
tropicus	tropics
truncatus	truncated, cutoff square
tubatus.	tubes, trumpet-shaped
tuberculatus	covered with tubercles
tuberosus	producing tubers
tubulatus	trumpet-shaped
tumidus	swollen
turbinatus	top-shaped
turbinellus	little top-shaped
turgidus	inflated, full, swollen with air or water
-tylo	with knobs
typhinus.	fever
typicus	typical

Uu

-ulatus	little
uliginosus.	growing in wet or marshy places
umbonatus.	having a round projection at center
umbraculi-	umbrella
umbrosus.	shady, growing in the shade
uncinatus	barbed or hooked point
undatus	wavy
unguicularis	clawed
uni-	one
urbanus	of towns or cities
urceolatus	urn or pitcher-shaped
urens	burning, stinging
uro-	tail
ursinus.	bears, northern
urtici-	nettle
usitatus	useful
ustulatus	burnt, sere
utilis.	useful
utriculatus	with bladdered one-seed fruits
uvarius.	like a bunch of grapes

tabularis flattened horizontally, table-like
 tanacetifolius tansy-leaved
 taraxicifolius dandelion-leaved
 tardi- late
 tardivus very late
 tartareus having a rough crumbling surface
 taxi- yew
 technicus technical, special
 tectorum of roofs
 tectus concealed, covered
 telmat- wet meadows
 tempus time
 temulentus drunken, intoxicated
 tenax tenacious, strong
 tenebrosus dark, shady places
 tenellus / tenera slender; tender; soft
 tentaculum sensitive glandular hair e.g. *Drosera* sp.
 tenui- slender; thin
 terebinthi- turpentine
 teres circular in cross-section
 terminalis terminal
 ternatus in threes
 terrestris growing on the earth or ground
 tessellatus checkered
 testaceus light brown, brick-colored
 testudinarius tortoise-shell
 tetra- four
 texanus of Texas
 textilis textiles, woven
 -thele nipple
 thermalis warm springs
 thysano- fringe
 tigrinus tiger-striped
 tinctorius used in dying
 tomentosus densely wooly
 tonsus shaven, clipped, shorn
 torminalis useful against colic
 torosus / torulosus cylindrical with constrictions
 torti- with twisted leaves
 toxicarius poisonous
 toxico- poison
 trachy- rough
 translucens translucent, allowing light to shine through
 transparens transparent
 trapezi- four unequal sides

Cc

caeruleus dark blue
 caesius bluish-gray
 caespitosus tufted
 calami- reed
 calathinus basket-like
 calcaratus spurred
 calcareus lime
 calli- beautiful
 callosus thick-skinned
 calo- beautiful
 calvus bald, naked
 calycinus / calyculatus calyx-like
 calyptratus with a calyptra
 -calyptus covered
 -calyx calyx
 campanularia bell-flowered
 campanulatus bell-shaped
 campylo- curved
 canaliculatus channeled, grooved
 cancellatus cross-barred
 candicans white, hoary
 candidus pure white, shining
 canescens gray-downy
 caninus dog
 canus ash-coloured, hoary
 caestris fields, plains
 capillaris hair-like
 capilli- hair-like, slender
 capitatus headed
 capitellatus / capitellus little-headed
 capreolatus winding, twining
 capsularis capsuled
 cardinalis red
 cardio- heart-shaped
 carduaceus thistle-like
 caricosus carex (sedge)-like
 carinatus keeled
 carini- keels
 carminatus carmine
 carneus flesh-coloured
 carnicus / carnosus fleshy
 carnosulus somewhat fleshy

-carpus fruit, seed
 cartilagineus cartilage-like
 caryophyllaceus clove-like
 castaneus chestnut-coloured
 caudatus tailed
 caudescens stem-like
 cauli- stems
 caulialatus wing-stemmed
 causticus caustic
 -cavus hollow
 centi- hundred
 -centrus centered
 cephalatus headed
 cephalotes head-like
 -cephalus head
 -ceps edges, head
 ceramicus ceramic-like
 cerasi- cherry
 cerato- horned
 cere- waxy
 cereale agricultural
 cer- /eus /i- /inus waxy
 cernuus drooping, nodding
 cheil- lip
 -chilus lipped
 chion- snow
 chiro- hand
 chloro- green
 -chromus coloured
 chryseus /chryso- golden
 ciliaris /ciliatus fringed, ciliate
 ciliolaris secondarily ciliate
 cinctus girdled, crowned
 cinerascens /cinereus ash-gray
 cinnabarinus cinnabar-red
 cinnamomeus /cinnamomi- cinnamon-brown
 cili- fringed, ciliate
 circinalis /circinatus coiled inwards from the tip
 cirrhatus /cirrhosus tendrilled
 cis- on this side of
 citratus citrus-like
 citri- citrus
 clado- club-like
 -clados branched
 clandestinus concealed

striatulus somewhat striped
 striatus striped
 stricti- stiff, erect
 strigosus scraggy with bristles
 strigulosus somewhat strigose
 striolatus somewhat striped
 strobilaceus cone-like
 strobili- cone
 strumarius /strumatus tumors or swellings
 strumosus cushion-like swellings
 stylosus prominent styles
 -stylus style
 styphelos hard, rough
 styracifluus flowing with gum
 suaveolens sweet-scented
 suavis sweet
 sub- somewhat, nearly, slightly
 subalpinus growing below the timberline (above is the alpine zone)
 suberculatus corky
 suberosus cork-barked
 submersus submerged, growing under water
 subterraneus underground
 subulatus awl-shaped
 succulentus fleshy
 suecicus of Sweden
 suffrutescens slightly woody, shrubby
 suffultus supported
 sulcatus furrowed, grooved
 sulphureus sulfur-coloured
 superans overtopping
 superbus superb
 superciliaris eyebrow-like
 superfluous superfluous, redundant
 supinus bent backwards, prostrate
 supra- on the upper side, over
 surculosus suckers
 suspensus suspended, hung
 sylvaticus /sylvestris of the forest, growing wild
 sylvicolus inhabitants of the forest
 syn- with, together

Tt

tabula- flat tablet

sordidus dirty-looking
-sorus pertaining to the sori
sparsi- sparse, few
spathaceus with a spathe
spathulatus /spathuli- spatulate
speciosus showy, splendid
spectabilis spectacular, showy
spectandrus showy
spectrum image, apparition
speculatus shining, reflecting
-spermus seed
sphacelatus with brown or blackish speckling
sphaericus /sphaero- spherical
spicatus spiky
spinuli- small spines
spirellus little spiral
splendens /splendidus shining, gleaming, brilliant
spumarius frothing
spurius spurious, false, fake
squalidus dirty, squalid
squamatus with small scaly leaves/bracts
squamosus covered with coarse scales
squarrosus rough with overlapping pointy scales
-stachys relating to a spike, spikes
stamineus relating to stamens
stans standing upright
staphylos grape-shaped
staura- cross-shaped
-stele column
stellaris /stellatus starry, star-shaped
-stemon stamen
-stemus filaments
steno- narrow
sterilis sterile
-stichus in a row or line
-stictus dotted, spotted
stigmaticus /stigosus relating to a stigma
-stigmus stigma
stipulaceus /stipularis belonging to stipules
stipulosus large stipules
stoloni- runners that take root
-stomus mouth
stramineus straw-coloured
strangulatus strangled, constricted, throttled
strepto- twisted

claudens /clausus closed
clavatus /clavi- club-shaped
-clema twig, branch, shoot
clivorum hills
clypeatus shield-like
coarctatus crowded, pressed together
cocci- berry
coccineus scarlet
cochleari- /cochleartus spoon-like
coelestinus /coelestis sky-blue
cognatus related to
cohaerens clinging together
-colasius hairs
collinus hills
-coloratus coloured
columellaris small pillar, pedestal
columnaris columnar
comansatus hairy
commixtus mixed
communis common
commutatus changing
comosus long-haired
compactus compact, dense
complanatus flattened
complexus circled, embraced
complicatus complicated
compositus compound
compressus compressed, flattened
comptus ornamented
-comus hairs, crown
con- uniform, same
concavus hollowed out
conchae- shell-like
concinus neat, elegant
concolor uniform-coloured
condensatus /condensus condensed, crowded
conferti- /confertus densely, close-together
confusus uncertain
congestus congested
conglomeratus clustered
coni- cone-like
conjugatus /conugialis joined
connatus united, twin
cono- cone-like
conopseus canopied

consanguineus related
 consolidus consolidated
 conspersus scattered
 conspicuus conspicuous
 constrictus constricted
 contiguus touching
 continentalis continental
 contortus twisted
 contractus contracted
 controversus controversial
 convolvulaceus morning-glory-like
 copros dung
 coralli- /corallinus coral-red
 cordatus /cordati- heart-shaped
 coriaria /coriaceus leathery
 corneus horny, hard, but not brittle
 corniculatus with a small horn-like appendage
 -cornis horned
 cornutus horn-shaped
 corollatus corolla-like
 coronarius useful for garlands
 coronatus crowned
 corrugatus wrinkled
 corticosus thick-barked
 coruscans vibrating, glittering
 corymbo- corymb
 coryno- club-like
 costatus ribbed
 crassi- thick, fleshy
 crassiusculus somewhat thick
 crebrus close, frequent, repeated
 crenatus /crenulatus scalloped, rounded teeth
 -crene fountain
 cretaceus chalky
 crinitus tufts of long weak hairs
 crispatus /crispus curled, wavy
 cristagalli cock's comb
 cristatus crested
 croc- /atus /eus saffron-yellow
 cruci- cross
 cruciatus cross-shaped
 cruentus blood-stained
 crusgalli cockspur
 crystallinus crystalline
 cucullatus hooded

sclero- hard-
 scoparius broom-like
 scopulorum rocks
 scorpioides scorpion-like
 scotica Scottish
 sculptus sculpted, engraved
 scutatus shield-shaped
 scutellaris dish-shaped
 seclusus hidden
 sectus cut
 secundus following, next
 semi- half-
 semper- always, ever
 senilis old, white-haired
 sensibilis sensitive
 sept- /septem seven
 septentrionalis northern
 sericeus silky
 serotinus late to leaf or flower
 serpens creeping
 serpentinus snakey, serpentine
 serratus saw-edged with sharp teeth pointing forwards
 serrulatus somewhat serrated
 sesqui- one and a half
 sesquipedalis one and a half feet long
 sessili- sessile-
 setiformis bristle-like
 sex- six
 sibiricus Siberia
 siccatus dried
 sículus Sicily
 sidero- iron
 signatus marked, designated
 siliceus sandy
 silvaticus of the woods
 silvestris of the woods
 similis similar
 simplex simple, unbranched
 simulans similar, imitating
 sinensis Chinese
 sinulatus sinuous, wavy-margined
 smaragdinus emerald-green
 soboli- creeping roots, rooting stems
 solidus solid, dense
 somnus sleep

rufescens	reddish
rufidulus	reddish
runcinatus	pinnatifid
rupestris	rock-dwelling
rupicolus	cliffs or ledges
rupifragus	rock-breaking
ruralis	belonging to the country
ruscatus	reddish, russet
rusticanus	of the countryside
rusticus	of the countryside
rutido-	rough
rutilans.	reddish-orange

Ss

saccatus	bag-shaped, pouched
saccharatus /saccharinus.	sugary
sacciformis.	bag-shaped
sagittatus	arrow-like
salicariae-.	willow
salici-	willow
saliginus	willow-like, willowy
salinus	salty
salsuginosus.	growing in brackish places, salt-marshes
sanctus.	holy
sanguineus.	blood-red
sapidus.	tasty
saponaceus /saponarius.	soapy
sarmentosus	has runners
sativa / sativus	cultivated
saturatus	saturated
sauro-	lizard
saxi-	rocks
saxosus	full of rocks
saxtilis	rocks
scaber	scabrous, rough
scabrellus.	minutely rough
scandens	climbing
scaposus	with scapes
scariosus	thin, dry and not green
schidi-	spine
schistosus	split
schizo-	deeply divided

cucumerinus	cucumber-like
cultorum	garden, cultivated
cultratus	knife-shaped
cuneatus	wedge-shaped
cum	.with, together with, along with
cumulatus	heaped, piled
cupuleatus.	cup-shaped
cupreus /cuprinus	coppery
cupressi-	cypress
cupressinus	cypress-like
cupreus	copper-coloured
curtus	shortened
curvatus /curvi-	curved
cuspidi- /cuspidatus	cusps, sharp stiff points
-cuspis	cusps, sharp stiff points
cyano-	blue
cyaneus	dark-blue
cyathodes	cup-like
cyclo-	circular
cyclicus	coiled into a circle
cylindraceus /cylindro- /cylindricus	cylindrical
cymbiformis	boat-shaped
cymosus	with cymes

Dd

dacryoideus.	tear or pear-shaped
dactyl- /dactylinus	fingers, branchlets
dasy-	thick, shaggy
dealbatus	covered with a white powder, whitened
debilis	weak
deca-	ten
deciduus	deciduous
decipiens	deceiving of another species
declinatus	bent or curved downwards
decolorans	faded, losing colour
decompositus	divided more than once
decorticans	with bark peeling off
decorus	elegant
decumbens	prostrate with tip rising upwards
decurrens	running down the stem
deflexus	bent abruptly downward
deformis	mishapen
dehiscens	dehiscent

dejectus low, fallen
 delapsus fallen away
 delectus selected
 deliciosus delicious
 deltate / deltoid triangular
 demersus submerged, underwater
 deminuens diminishing
 demissus low, lowly, humble, drooping
 dendr- /dendro- /-dendron tree-like
 dendrobium epiphytic
 -dens tooth
 densus- dense
 dentatus toothed
 denticulatus very small teeth
 denudatus naked
 deorsum downward, below
 depauperatus dwarfed, undeveloped
 dependens hanging, suspended
 depressus flattened from above
 derasus smoothed off, shaved off
 -dermis /dermato skin
 deserti desert
 desiccatus dried up
 deustus burned-up
 di- two
 diadema crown
 diaphanus transparent
 dichotomus always divided or forked in pairs
 dichrous two-coloured
 didymus in pairs (e.g. stamens)
 difformis irregular or variable form
 diffusus loosely spreading
 digitatus hand-like, leaflets radiating from tip of petiole
 dilatatus broadened, expanded, widened
 dimidius halved
 dioicus dioecious
 dipsaceus teasel-like
 discolor two colours, variegated
 dispar unlike
 dissectus deeply-cut
 dissimilis unlike
 dissiti- well-spaced, apart
 distans distant, separate, remote
 distichus arranged in two opposite rows
 diurnis belonging to the day, day-flowering

rectus straight, upright
 recurvatus /recurvus curved backwards
 redivivus restored, brought to life
 reflexus bent back at more than 90°
 refractus bent or strongly curved back
 refulgens brightly shining
 regalis regal, royal
 regina queenly
 regius kingly, royal, regal
 religiosus used for religious purposes
 reniformis kidney-shaped
 repandus slightly uneven or wavy margin
 repens creeping, prostrate, low
 replicatus folded back
 reptans creeping
 resinosus resinous
 reticulatus netted
 retortus twisted back
 retro- backwards
 retrorsus turned backwards
 retusus rounded shallowly notched end
 reversus turned about, reversed
 revolutus rolled backwards
 rhizophyllus producing roots from the leaves
 rhodo- rose-
 rhynch- /rhyncho- beaked
 rhytido- rumpled, wrinkled
 rigens rigid, stiff, unbendable
 ringens gaping
 riparius living on riverbanks
 rivalis pertaining to brooks
 rivularis pertaining to brooklets
 rosaceus like the flower of a single rose
 rostratus beaked, with a long beak
 -rostris -beaked
 rosulatus in the form of rosettes
 rotatus wheel-shaped
 rotundatus round
 rubens reddish
 ruber red, ruddy
 rubescens turning red
 rubiginosus rusty-red
 ruderalis growing among rubble (e.g. side of road)
 rudis wild
 rudiusculus sort of wild

pungenspiercing, hard sharp-pointed
 puniceus reddish-purple
 purpuratus purple
 pusillus very small
 pustulatus blistered, having pustules
 pycno- close, dense, or thick
 pygmaeus pigmy, dwarf
 pyramidalispyramid-shaped
 pyriformispear-shaped
 pyxidatusbox-like with a lid

Qq

quad-four
 quadratus squared
 quercinus oak-like
 -quetrus corners
 quinatusin fives
 quinque- five

Rr

racemi-with a raceme
 racemosus with unbranched flowers
 radians radiating from a common centre
 radiatus bearing rays
 radicalis basal, arising from root-stock
 radicans rooting
 radicatus having roots
 radicosus with many roots
 radiosus many rays
 radulans rasping
 ramentaceus covered with a thin membrane
 rami- branched
 ramosus much-branched
 ramulosus bearing many branchlets
 ranunculinus resembling a buttercup
 rapiformis turnip-shaped
 rariflorus sparsely flowered
 re- again
 reclinatus reclined, bent back

divaricatus spreading at a wide angle
 divergens going different ways
 diversi- various
 dodeca- twelve
 dolich- /dolicho- long, long-flowered
 dolosus deceitful
 domesticus domestic, common
 draco- dragon
 drepano- sickle-shaped
 drupaceus drupe-like
 dubius doubtful
 dulcis sweet, pleasant
 dumetorum bushes, hedges
 dumosus full of thorn-bushes, bushy habit
 duplex double
 duplicato twice as much
 durabilis long-lasting
 duracinus hard-berried
 durior harder
 duriusculus somewhat hard or rough
 durus hard

Ee

e- without, lacking
 ebenaceus ebony black
 ebracteatus bractless
 eburneus ivory-white
 echinatus prickly like a hedge-hog
 ecoticatus without bark
 edulis edible
 effusus very loose-spreading, straggling
 elasticus elastic
 elatus tall
 elegans elegant
 eleganti- elegant
 elegantulus elegant
 elephanti- elephant, huge
 ellip- /soidalis /ticus elliptic
 elodes marsh
 elongatus elongated
 emarcidus withered
 emarginatus shallow notch at apex
 emeticus emetic

eminens prominent, projecting, standing out
 endo-.....within, inside
 enecans killing completely
 enervis without nerves
 ennea- nine
 ensatus- sword-like
 -ensis indicating origin or place
 -epi..... upon, over, on top of
 equinus pertaining to horses
 erectus erect
 erio- woolly
 ermis armed
 erosus jagged
 erraticus erratic, wondering
 erubescens blushing, reddening, rose color
 erythro- red
 -escens like, becoming, slightly
 esculentus edible
 evectus extended
 evertus expelled, turned out
 eu- well, good, truly
 evadens escaping
 ex- from, out of, away
 exaltatus raised high, lofty
 exaratus furrowed
 exasperatus.....covered with sort hard points, roughened
 excavatus hollowed out in a curve
 excelsus high, lofty, tall
 excisus cut out
 excorticatus stripped of bark
 exiguus weak, feeble, little
 eximie extraordinary, eminent
 exitiosus pernicious, destructive
 exo- outward, outside
 exoticus exotic
 expansus expanded, spreading out
 explodens exploding
 exsculptus chiselled out, dug out
 exsertus protruding from
 exsurgens rising up or out of
 extensus extended
 extra.....outside of, beyond
 extrusus.....pushed out
 exudans exuding

potamophilus..... river-loving
 praealtus..... very tall
 praecox.....very early
 praemorsus.....bitten at the end
 praestans distinguished
 praetextus.....bordered
 prasinusleek-green
 pratensisgrowing in meadows
 pravissimus..... very crooked
 primuli- primrose
 primulinus primrose-like
 principalischief, main
 prismaticus.....prismatic
 pro-.....before
 proboscideus proboscis-like
 procerusvery tall, high
 procumbens..... growing without roots
 procurrensextending
 productus.....elongated, lengthened
 profusus.....spread out
 prolifera /prolificans /prolificusproducing offshoots or offsets
 propendens hanging down
 propinquus neighboring, near to
 protrusus. protruding
 provinciapertaining to Provence, southern France
 pruinatus /pruinosiswith a waxy white bloom
 pruni- plum
 pruriens causing itching, stinging
 psammo- sand-
 pseudo- false
 psilo-slender or naked
 psittacinusparrot-like
 psychodesfragrant
 ptero-winged
 pubens downy
 puberulus. minutely pubescent
 pubescens hairy as opposed to glabrous
 pubi- softly hairy
 pudicusbashful, shrinking
 pulchellusbeautiful and little
 pullus dark, dusky
 pulverulentus.powdered, dust-covered
 pulvinatuscushion-shaped
 pumilusdwarf, closely-growing
 punctatus.dotted, spotted

-phlebius -veined
 phloginus phlox-pink
 phoeniceus bright red
 -phorus -bearing
 phyllomaniacus excessively leafy
 -phyllus -leaved
 phymatodeus warty
 picturatus painted, pictured, variegated
 pictus colored, painted
 pileatus with a cap, cap-shaped
 pilifer bearing soft hairs
 pilosiusculus slightly hairy
 pilosus soft hairs
 pilularis globular fruit
 pini- pine-
 piperita peppermint-scented
 pisiformis pea-shaped
 pisinus pea-green
 placatus quiet, calm
 placentiformis circular and flat-shaped
 plagio- oblique
 plani- flat
 plantagineus plantain-like
 planus flat
 platy- broad
 pleio- many, more than usual
 pleniflorus full or double flowers
 -pleuro ribs or nerves
 pleuro- side
 plicatus folded into lengthwise pleats or furrows
 plumosus plumed, feathered
 plumbeus leaden grey
 plumosus feathery
 pluri- many
 podophyllus with a foot-like leaf
 poeticus poets
 polifolius white-leaved
 politus polished
 poly- many, numerous
 pomaceus pome-like
 pomeridianus opening in the afternoon
 pomponius tuft or top knot
 ponderosus heavy, weighty
 porcinus pigs
 porphy- /porphyro- purple

Ff

fabaceus bean-like
 fabiformis bean-shaped
 falcatus sickle-shaped
 fallax deceptive
 farcimiformis sausage-shaped
 -farium ranked in a row or line
 farinaceus starchy
 fasciatus marked with bands of colour (variegated)
 fasciatus unusually flattened
 fasciculatus clustered, growing in bundles
 fascinator fascinating
 fastigiatus branches erect and close
 fastuosus proud
 fatiscens disintegrating, crumbling
 fatuus foolish, simple
 faviolatus finely honeycombed
 favosus honeycombed
 febrifugus fever-curing
 femina /femineus female
 fenestralis windowed
 -fer carrying
 ferox ferocious, very thorny
 ferreus iron
 ferrugineus rusty, light-brown
 fertilis fertile
 -ferum bearing
 ferus wild
 festivus festive, bright
 fibrillosus /fibrosus fibrous
 fici- fig
 -fidus cut, divided
 fili- thread-like
 filicatus fern-like
 fimbriatus fringed
 firmatus firm
 fissilis cleft, split
 fissuratus fissured
 flabellatus fan-shaped
 flaccidus unable to hold up own weight
 flagellaris /flagellatus whip-like
 flagelli- whip, scourge, flail
 flammeus flame-coloured, fiery-red, scarlet

flavescens yellow
 flavidus pale yellow
 flavus yellow paler than luteus
 flexibilis /flexilis flexible
 flexuosus flexible, zigzag
 floccosus woolly, with tufts of soft hair
 -florens flowering
 florepleno double-flowered
 floribundus profusely free-flowering
 floribus..... with flowers
 floridus flowering
 -florus abounding in flowers
 flutitans floating, swimming
 -fluus flowing
 fluviatilis rivers
 foeniculatus fennel-like
 foetidus fetid, foul-smelling
 foliaceus..... leafy
 foliatus leaf-letted
 -folius leaves
 follicularis follicle-like
 fontinalis growing in or by springs (of water)
 foratus..... pierced with holes
 -formis /-forma -shaped
 formosanus related to Formosa (Taiwan)
 formosus beautiful
 fornicaeformis ant-shaped
 foveatus pitted
 foveolatus..... minutely pitted
 -fractus broken
 fragans fragrant
 fragarioides strawberry-like
 fragilis fragile
 -fragus splitting, breaking
 frigidus cold
 frondosus leafy
 -frons fronds
 fructifera fruit-bearing
 -fructus fruit
 frumentaceus grain (cereal)
 fruticans..... becoming shrubby
 fruticosus shrubby, bushy
 fucatus painted, dyed, stained
 fugax fleeting, swift, transitory, ephemeral
 fulgens /fulgidus shining, bright-coloured

paradisiacus..... of parks or gardens
 paradoxus paradoxical, strange
 parasiticus parasitic
 partitus parted
 parvitas smallness
 parvus very small, puny
 patellaris circular, disk-shaped
 patens..... spreading
 patulus spread, outspread
 pauci-..... few
 pauperculus..... poor
 pausiacus olive-green
 pavoninus..... peacock-eyed
 pectinatim form of a comb
 pedatus bird-footed
 peduncularis /pedunculatus..... stalked
 pedunculatus..... with many stalks
 pelagicus pertaining to the sea
 pellucidus translucent dots
 peltatus shield-shaped
 pelviformis basin-shaped
 pendulinus somewhat pendulous
 penicillatus pencil-shaped
 pennatus feathered, pinnate
 penta- five
 per- through, very, completely
 perbellus..... very beautiful
 persicinus peach-coloured
 percussus..... very sharp-pointed
 peregrinus exotic, wandering
 perforatus pierced with holes
 perfossus pierced through, hollow
 pergracilis..... very slender
 peri- about, around, surrounding
 permixtus very mixed
 perspicuus clear, transparent
 pertusus..... stabbed, perforated
 perulatus having buds covered with scales
 -pes foot, stalk
 -petalinus / petaloideus petal-like
 petiolaris..... borne on a petiole
 petiolatus..... provided with a petiole
 petraeus..... growing amongst rocks
 phaeo- dark, dusky
 -philus -loving

orbicularis circular, round
 orchideus orchid-like
 oreganus Oregon
 oreo- pertaining to mountains
 orgyalis six feet long or high (a fathom)
 orientalis eastern
 ornans ornamental
 ornatus adorned, embellished, ornate
 ornith- bird
 ortho- straight
 ortus.....descended from
 osm- /-osma -scent
 osmo- fragrant
 -osusabundance, full of
 ovalis oval, elliptic
 ovi- egg
 ovinuspertaining to sheep
 oxy- sharp

Pp

pabularius fit for pasture fodder
 pachy-.....thick, stout
 pacificusPacific
 palaceus margin attached e.g. leaf blade to petiole
 paleaceus chaff-like texture
 pallens pale
 pallescensbecoming pale
 palliatus cloaked
 pallidus pale
 palmaris equalling the width of the palm of the hand
 palmatuspalmate, lobed like an outstretched hand
 paludosusof the marsh
 palustris swampy, marshy
 panduratus fiddle-shaped
 paniculatuswith panicles
 panicula.....compound raceme (panicle)
 panniformis /pannosus felted texture
 papaverinus poppy-red
 papillionaceusbutterfly-like
 papillosus..... covered with protuberances
 papyraceuspapery
 para- by the side of, near

fuliginosus sooty, black
 fulvidus somewhat tawny (yellowish-brown)
 fulvustawny (yellowish-brown)
 fumeus smoky
 funebris funereal
 fungosus spongy
 funicularis rope-like
 furcatus forked with two long terminal lobes
 fuscus brown, dusky
 fusiformis spindle-shaped

Gg

galanthus milk-white flowers
 galeatus helmeted
 galericulatus with a little helmet
 gamo-united
 -gamus sexes
 gelatus..... frozen
 gelatinous /gelineus jelly-like
 gemellus /geminustwin-born, paired
 geminatus /gemini- twin
 gemmatus budded
 generalis general, prevailing
 geniculatus jointed, kneed
 -genus born in a certain place
 geometricus in a pattern
 geotropus turning towards the ground
 -ger bearing, carrying
 gibbosus swollen on one side
 gigant- /giganteus gigantic, large
 gigantes giant-flowered
 glabratus somewhat smooth
 glabrous smooth
 glacialis icy, frozen
 gland- /glandulosus glandular
 glaucousa grayish, bluish, or whitish waxy coating easily rubbed off
 globosus round like a ball
 globularis globule-bearing
 globuliformis..... button-like
 glochidiatus with barbed bristles
 glomeratus clustered closely together in a head
 gloriosus glorious

glosso- tongue
 glumaceouslike the glumes of grasses
 glutinous /glutinosus sticky, viscid
 glypto-cut into
 gompho- club-shaped
 -gon angles, sides
 gongyloides roundish, swollen
 gonia- angled, cornered
 gracilis thin, slender
 gracillimus very thin, slender
 gramineus grass-like
 graminifoliusgrass-leaved
 grandi- big, large
 graniticus granite-loving
 granular / granulate /granulose covered with tiny bumps
 gratusagreeable, pleasing
 graveolens strong-smelling
 griseus grey
 grosse coarsely, larger than usual
 gruinus crane
 gummosus gummy
 guttatus spotted, speckled
 gymno-naked
 gymnocarpusnaked-fruited
 gyn- / gyno-(female) pistil
 gyransrevolving, gyrating
 gyrosuscurved backwards and forwards, spiral

Hh

haem- / haemat- blood-red
 halo-salt-
 halophilus salt-loving
 hamatus / hamosus barbed, hooked
 hapalo- soft
 haplo- single
 hastatusspear-shaped
 hedy-sweet-
 heleo- / helo- marsh
 helveticus Swiss
 helvoluspale yellow
 hemi- half-
 hepaticus liver-coloured

nucifer nut-bearing
 nudus..... naked
 nullimodoby no means, in no way
 nummularus money
 nutans nodding
 nyctagineus night-blooming
 nycticalus night-blooming

Oo

ob- inversed, reversed
 obconicus inversely conical
 obcordatus inversely cordate
 obesus obese, fat
 obfuscatus clouded, confused
 oblanceolatus inversely lanceolate
 obliquus oblique
 obliterated obliterated, erased
 obscurus obscure, hidden
 obsoletus obsolete, rudimentary
 obtusus obtuse, blunt
 obvallatus apparently walled up
 occidentalis western
 oceanicus pertaining to the oceans
 ocellatusmarked with two-coloured spots
 ochraceus ochre-coloured
 ochreateus with a boot-sheath
 ochro- yellowish
 octo- eight
 ocularis eyed, spotted
 oculatus eyed, spotted
 odon- toothed
 odoratus /odorus having a smell, usually sweet
 officinalis medicinal
 -oides like
 oleraceus pertaining to kitchen gardens, lettuce-like
 oligo- few
 olitorius vegetable garden
 olivaceus olive-green
 oliviformis olive-shaped
 opacus opaque, shaded
 operculatus lidded
 ophio- pertaining to snakes
 oppositus opposite

Nn

nanellus	very dwarf
nanno /nano	dwarf
napi-	turnip
narinusus	broad-nosed
nascens	beginning
nasutus	large-nosed
natans	floating, swimming
nauseosus	nauseating, sickening
navicularis	boat-shaped
nebulosus	clouded, obscure
neglectus	neglected, overlooked
memoralis /nemorosus	pertaining to woods and groves
nephro-	kidney
-nervis /neurus.....	nerves, veins
nervosus	nerved, veined
neso-	pertaining to islands
nidus	nest
niger /nigeratus /nigricans	various types of black
nitens /nitidus	polished, shining
nivalis /niveus	snowy, snow-white
nivosus	full of snow
nobili-	noble, famous
nocti-	night
noctiflorus.....	night-flowering
nocturnus	belonging to the night
nodi-	nodes
nodosus	knobby
nodulosus	with small nodes
nolitangere	do not touch
nonscriptus	undescribed
notabilis	noteworthy, remarkable
notatus	marked
notho-	false
novae-	new
novae-angliae	New England
novae-belgii	New York
novae-caesareae	New Jersey
novae-zelandicae	New Zealand
novem	nine
nubilus	cloudy, dark, greyish-blue
nubigenus	clouds
nucatus.....	nut-brown

hepta-	seven
herbaceus	herbaceous, not woody
hesperius	the West
hetero-	different, other, varied
heterogeneous	not uniform in structure
hexa-	six
hians	open, gaping
hibernalis /hibernus	winter, wintry, belonging to winter
hibernicus	Ireland
hieroglyphicus	marked
hircinus	smells like a goat
hirsutus	covered with coarse, stiff long hairs
hirtellus	somewhat hairy
hirtus	hairy
hispanicus	Spanish
hispidus	covered with bristles
holo-	entire, whole
homo-	like, of the same kind,
homogeneous.....	uniform in structure
horizontalis	horizontal
horridus	prickly, sticking out
hortensis	pertaining to gardens, raised in a garden
hortorum	cultivated, of gardens
hortulanus	gardener
hortulorum	little garden
hortulus	tiny garden
humifusus	sprawling on the ground, procumbent
humilis.....	low, low-growing
hyacinthinus	sapphire-coloured
hyalinus	translucent
hybridus	hybrid, mixed
hyemalis	belonging to winter
hygrometricus	taking up water
hymeno-	membrane
hymenodes	membrane-like
hyper-	beyond, above, over
hyperboreus	belonging to the very far north
hypnoides	moss-like
hypo-	under, beneath
hypocrateriformis	salver-shaped
hystrix	porcupine-like, bristly

li

iadinus	jade-green
icosa-	twenty
ignescens	fiery, glowing bright-red
igneus	fire-red
ilici-	holly
illecebrosus	alluring, attractive
illinitus	daubed over, smeared, varnished
illustratus	pictured
illustris	bright, lustrous
im-	without
imbricatus	scales, sepals, etc., having overlapping adjacent edges
immaculatus	spotless, unstained
immersus	covered up, submerged, under water
imminens	overhanging
imperialis	imperial
implexus	entangled, interwoven
impressus	sunken in
impudicus	shameless, immodest
incanus	hoary, white
incarnatus	flesh-coloured
incertus	uncertain, doubtful
incisus	cut deeply and sharply
inclinatus	bent downward
incomptus	plain, unadorned
incrassatus	thickened
incurvatus /incurvus	bent inward
indica	of India
inermis	unarmed, without prickles, spines, or thorns
infestus	troublesome, becoming a weed
inflatus	bladdery, inflated, swollen
inflexus	bent inwards
infractus	sharply bent, incurved
infundibularis	trumpet/funnel-shaped
ingens	enormous, exceeding the usual size for the genus
inopinatus	unexpected
inquinatus	polluting, discolouring
inscriptus	written on
insculptus	engraved on
insignis	distinguished by, remarkable for, outstanding
insititius	grafted
insularis	pertaining to islands
intactus	intact, untouched

meniscatus	shaped like a half-moon or crescent
meridionalis	south, southern
-merus	parts, number of parts
meso-	middle
metallicus	metallic
micans	glittering, sparkling
micro-	small
mille-	thousand
miniatus	saturn-red
minimus	very little, very least
minor	inferior, lesser
minus	less, small
minutius	very small, minute
mirabilis	marvellous
mitis	mellow, mild, gentle
mitratus	turban-like
mixtus	mixed
modestus	modest
mollis	soft and pliant
moniliformis	shaped like a string of cylindrical beads
mono-	one
monstrosus	monstrous, abnormal
montanus	growing on mountains
mori-	mulberry
-morphus	shaped
mosaicus	mosaic, many-coloured
moschatus	musky-scented
mucosus	slimy
mucronatus	ending in a sharp point
mucronulatus	with a small point
multi-	many-
multiplex	many-folded
mundulus	trim, neat
munitus	armed, provided with
muralis	growing on walls
muricatus	rough with short hard points
musci-	fly
muscosus	mossy
mutabilis	changeable, varying
mutatus	changed
muticus	blunt, no points
mutilatus	cut short, mutilated
myrio-	countless, a lot
myrmeco-	pertaining to ants
myxo-	slimy

Mm

macilentus	lean, meager
macro-	large or long
maculatus	spotted
maculosus	full of spots
magnificus	magnificent
magnus	large
majalis	May
majesticus	majestic
major	greater
malaco-	soft, mucilaginous
mali-	apple
malvaceus	pertaining to mallow
mamillatus	with small breasts or nipples
mammosus	with large breasts or nipples
manicatus	long-sleeved
manzanita	small apple
margaritaceus	pearl-like, pearly
marginalis	edged, margined
marianus	after the virgin Mary
marilandicus	Maryland
marinus	growing in the sea
maritimus	growing by the sea
marmoratus	marbled, mottled
mas /masculus /masculus	male, masculine
maternalis	maternal
maximus	greatest
medicus	medicinal
medio-	centre
mediopictus	striped down the centre
medius	middle, medium, intermediate
medullaris	marrow, pith
mega- /megalo-	big, great, very large
meio-	lesser or smaller
melancholicus	hanging, drooping
melano-	black, very dark
meleagris	checkered
melius	better
melleus	honey
mellitus	honey-sweet
melo-	melon
membranaceus	membrane-like
mendosus	incorrect, full of faults

integer	entire
integri-	entire
intercurrent	running between
interjectus	placed between
interruptus	interrupted
interspersus	strewn, interspersed
interstitium	space between
intertextus	interwoven, intertwined
intestinus	internal
intortus	twisted
intricatus	intricate, entangled
introrsus	turned inward
intumescens	swollen
inversus	inverted, turned over or upside down
invisus	unseen, overlooked
involucratus	with a ring of bracts around the base of a flower
involutus	rolled inwards
ion- /io-	violet-coloured
-ipes	foot, stalk
iridi-	iris
irregularis	irregular
irriguus	wet, soaked, well-watered
ischno-	thin, slender
iso-	equal, like
-issimus	very
ixo-	sticky

Jj

japonica /us	from Japan
jubatus	crested, with a mane
jucundus	pleasing
jugatus	yoked together in pairs
jugosus	joined
-jugus	yoked, together
julaceus	smoothly cylindrical, catkin-like
junceus	rush-like
juncifolius	rush-leaved
juvenalis	youthful, juvenile
juxta	near

Kk

kermesinus..... crimson

Ll

labiatus lipped
 labilis slippery
 labiosus large-lipped
 -labium lower lip of corolla
 -labrus lips
 lacerus torn
 laciniatusslashed into narrow divisions
 lacti- milk, milky-colour
 lactifermilk-producing
 lacunosuscovered with holes or pits
 lacustrisinhabiting lakes
 laetus bright, cheerful, pleasant
 laevigatus smooth and polished
 laevissmooth, free of hairs or roughness
 lageniformis flask or bottle-shaped
 laminar blade-like
 lanatus woolly
 lanceolate lance-like
 laneus woolly, wool-like
 languescens wilting, withering
 lanosus wooly
 lanuginosus woolly, downy
 lappaceus bur-like
 largus..... abundant
 lasio- woolly, hairy
 lasiocarpus wooly fruit
 -lateralis sides
 lateri- at the sides
 lateritius brick-red
 lati- broad, wide
 laudatus laudable, worthy
 lauri- laurel
 laurinus laurel-like
 lavandulaceus /lavandulus lavender-like
 laxi- loose, open
 leio- smooth
 lenticular /lenticularis lens-shaped
 lentiginosus freckled

lentus flexible, pliant, tough
 leonto- lion
 leopardinus leopard-spotted
 lepid-scaly
 lepidotus covered in small scales
 leprosus scurfy
 lept- narrow, slender, thin
 leuco- white-
 lignosus woody
 ligu- /laris /latus strap-like
 -ligulatus ligules
 ligustici- lovage
 ligusticus Liguria
 ligustri- privet
 lilacinus lilac
 liliaceus lily-like
 limbatus bordered
 limpidusclear, transparent
 limosus muddy, marshy
 lineari- linear
 lineatus parallel-lined, striped
 linguiformis /lingulatus tongue-shaped
 linifolius flax-leaved
 liquidus..... clear
 litho- stone
 littoralispertaining to the seashore
 lividus livid, bluish
 lobatus lobed
 lobulatus small-lobed
 locularis having cavities or cells
 longaevus.....long-lived
 loph- crested
 loratus strap-shaped
 lubricussmooth and slippery
 lucidus clear, bright, shining
 lunaris /lunatus crescent-shaped
 lunulatus slightly crescent-shaped
 luridus dirty drab pale yellow
 luteolus yellow
 lutescens..... becoming yellow
 lutetianus Parisian
 luteus deep yellow
 luxurians luxuriant, thrifty
 lyratus pinnate, long terminal lobe