



Arable Plant Crib Glossary

Adpressed (or appressed) – pressed close to another organ, such as hairs that are pressed along a stem or leaf.

Axil – the upper angle between a leaf or bract and the stem.

Beak – a terminal projection, often at the tip of a fruit such as in cornsalads and buttercups, or the stalk between the fruit and the pappus hairs on a daisy flower.

Bifid – forked or cleft in two.

Cordate – heart-shaped.

Dioecious – species with separate male and female flowers on different plants.

Elliptical – widest at the middle and tapering to the tip and base.

Glandular – with the functions of, or bearing glands. For example, glandular hairs often have a globule at the end as this is where the gland is located.

Inflorescence – a grouping of flowers on a stem, on a receptacle or in a leaf-axil.

Lanceolate leaf – a long narrow leaf tapering to a point - spear-shaped.

Mucronate – a bristle-like point at the tip.

Obovate leaf – a leaf with the widest part above the middle of the leaf towards the tip. The leaf will taper suddenly to the blunt tip and taper more gradually to the stalk.

Palmate leaf – a compound leaf with more than three separate leaflets arising from the same point on the leaf stalk.

Palmately-lobed leaf – an entire leaf with the main veins radiating from a central point out to the tips of the leaf. This type of leaf often looks like a palm of a hand.

Petiole – a stalk of a leaf.

Pinnate leaf – a compound leaf made up of separate leaflets along the leaf stalk. The leaflets are usually arranged in opposite pairs with a terminal leaflet at the end of the stalk. The carrot family may have 2, 3 or more pinnate leaves referring to the number of subdivisions that the leaves are dividing into.

Pubescent – covered with soft short hair or downy.

Reflexed – sharply bent backwards, outwards or downwards on itself.

Sepal – one of the segments of the outer whorl of floral leaves immediately behind the petals. These may be separated or joined to form a tube.

Stipule – a leaf-like or scale appendage at the base of a leaf stalk. Sometimes there is a single stipule or there could be pairs of stipules.

Truncate – square-ended, as if cut off at right-angles.

Whorled leaves – three or more leaves or flowers arising from the same point or level on a stem.

Umbel – a flat-topped inflorescent with many flower stalks arising from the same point of the stem.