



Identify that Plant

Confidently master the skill of correct
plant identification

Plant Identification Categories

Field guides and internet resources are available for each of the **highlighted** categories.

Non-vascular plant — Does not use a system of vessels to transport water and nutrients between different parts of the plant.

Moss

A type of green plant with very small leaves and no flowers; can be found growing on rocks, bark, or wet ground.

Vascular plant — Has lignified tissues (xylem, phloem) to transport water, nutrients and photosynthetic products throughout the plant.

A. Fern

Seedless, non-flowering plant, of tropical to temperate regions, characterized by true roots produced from a rhizome, triangular fronds that uncoil upward and have a branching vein system, and reproduction by spores contained in sporangia that appear as brown dots on the underside of the fronds.

B. Herbaceous

Flowering plant whose leaves and stems die down to the soil level at the end of the growing season (no persistent above-ground woody tissue); includes forbs and graminoids.

1. Forb — Any broad-leaved non-woody herbaceous plant which is not a grass, sedge or rush.

wildflower — Uncultivated flowering plant.

aquatic — Grows in water or swampy area.

vine — Stem requires support; climbs by tendrils or twining, or creeps along the ground.



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2. Graminoid — Grass-like herbaceous plant with leaves that are mostly very narrow or linear in outline.

grass — “True grass” with jointed stems, slender sheathing leaves, and flowers borne in spikelets.

sedge — Typically grows on wet ground and has rhizomes, triangular stems, and minute flowers in spikelets.

rush — Distinguished by cylindrical stalks or hollow, stemlike leaves growing in moist or shady locations.

bamboo — Grass of tropical and temperate regions having hollow stems, thick rhizomes, and shoots used for food.

reed — Tall grass with slender often prominently jointed stems; grows especially in wet areas.

C. Woody Plant

Uses wood in its stems and larger roots as its structural tissue. The main stem, larger branches, and roots are usually covered by a layer of thickened bark. Continues growing each year from the previous years’ above-ground stems.

1. Tree — Perennial with a usually elongate main stem, generally with few or no branches on its lower trunk.

2. Shrub — Perennial with multiple stems and a shorter height.

D. Succulent

Has fleshy tissues which conserve moisture, and deep or broad root systems; native to either deserts or regions with a semiarid season.

1. Cactus — Succulent stems and branches with scales or spines instead of leaves.

2. Agave — Stores water primarily in succulent leaves.