

## Figure Out Latin Names

1. **Abrescens** – tree like
2. **Albus, alba, album** -  
white, pale
3. **Diffusus, diffusa,**  
**diffusum** – spreading
4. **Flavus, flava, flavum** –  
yellow
5. **Floridus, florida,**  
**floridum** – flowering
6. **Grandifolius, grandifolia**  
**granifolium** – great leaves
7. **Laevis, laevis** – smooth
8. **Officinalis, officinale** –  
medicinal
9. **Parvifolius, parvifolia,**  
**parvifolium** – small leaved
10. **Rubra, rubrum** – red
11. **Serrulatus, serrulata,**  
**serrulatum** – small leaved
12. **Tomentosus, tomentosa,**  
**tomentosum** – hair

## Using Scientific Names of Plants

### Why do we need to use those hard to pronounce scientific names of plants?

Everyone uses the common names or nicknames because we can pronounce and/or understand them better, but they can get us into trouble... Some plants (species) have one or more nicknames and two plants unrelated to each other share the exact same nickname.

### Using the Scientific names for plants

To have less confusion about the names of the plants; a system was developed as the binomial system for taxonomy, i.e. Scientific names. “Binomial” means that two words are used for classification purposes and those words are in Latin.

The organization of living things can be seen like a pyramid or tree with seven major levels or categories: Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, and Species.

The two most commonly used in the plant taxonomy are Genus and Species. Genus is a group of plant species exhibiting similar characteristics, flower form, general appearance, growth habit and cultural requirements. Species is a group of individual plants that share many characteristic and interbreed freely and produce viable or fertile offspring.

### Pronunciation of the Scientific Names of Plants

The pronunciation of the scientific names can be confusing and there is more than one proper pronunciation for the word. It is funny how you can pronounce a plant name one way and here someone says it totally different. Both of you could be correct. Listed below are some of the most difficult scientific name to pronounce:

- Clematis: CLE-muh-tuhs or cle-MA-tuhs
- Peony: PE-uh-ne or pe-O-ne
- Cotoneaster: kuh-TO-ne-As-tuhr or CAWT-tuhn-ES-tuhr
- Achillea: A-kuh-Le-a or KIH-le-uh
- Lamium: LAY-me-uhm
- Forsythia: fohr-SIH-the-a or for Cynthia