



LATIN FOR GARDENERS III

Texture

Size

Direction

Fragrance & Taste

TERMS FOR TEXTURE

These terms describe the way a plant looks and/or feels to the touch:

barbatus – bearded

hirsutus – hairy

lanatus - woolly

rugosus - wrinkled



Dianthus barbatus

Common name – Sweet William

barbatus – bearded

Named for the “bearded” growth in the flower center



Dorycnium hirsutum

Common names: Hairy Canary Flower, Canary Clover, or Hairy Canary Clover

hirsutum – hairy, shaggy or bristly



Heliotropium hirsutissimum

hirsutissimum – VERY hairy



Digitalis lanata

Common names: Woolly foxglove, Grecian foxglove

lanata – woolly

This plant is covered with white hairs on the underside of the leaves and on flowers and stems



Rosa rugosa

Common names: red Japanese Rose, Rugosa Rose, Beach Rose, or
Ramanas Rose

rugosa - wrinkled

SIZE

- Maximus – largest
- Obesus – fat, succulent
- Parvulus – very small
- Tenuis – thin, slender



Rudbeckia maxima

Common Name: Giant Coneflower, Large Coneflower, Cabbage Leaf
Coneflower

maximus - largest



Narcissus obesus

Named for their large “hoop petticoats” and because the flowers are so much larger than other species of narcissus

obesus – fat, succulent



Penstemon parvulus

Common name: Small Penstemon

parvulus – very small

Native perennial herb in Central and Northern California



Gladiolus tenuis

Common name: Thin Gladiolus
tenuis – thin, slender

DIRECTION

- These terms can refer to the whole plant or just parts of a plant
- Horizontalis - horizontal
- Pendulus – hanging, pendulous
- Tortilis - twisted
- Tortuosus - meandering



Cotoneaster horizontalis

Common Name: Rockspray Cotoneaster
horizontalis – horizontal, flat to the ground



Dierama pendula

Common Names: Fairy Bell, Hair Bell, Wedding Bell, Fisherman's wand, Fairy Wand, Angel's Fishing Rod
pendula – hanging, pendulous



Vachellia tortilis* or *Acacia tortilis

Common Names – Desert Umbrella Acacia, Umbrella Thorn Tree, Israeli Babool, etc., etc., etc.

tortilis – twisted

Why Binomial Nomenclature is so helpful!

Vachellia tortilis is known by a wide number of common names. These include but are not limited to:

- Afrikaans: *haak-en-steek*
- Arabic: *sunut, samar, sammar, samor, samra, sayyal, seyal, seyyal*
- English: *karamoja, umbrella thorn*
- Hebrew: *shitat ha'sochech*
- Hindi: *Israeli babool*
- Italian: *acacia ad ombrello*
- Kamba: *mùgaa*
- Ndebele: *isanqawe, umsasane, umshishene, untshatshatsha*
- Nyanja: *mzunga, nsangu, nsangunsangu, nyoswa*
- Samburu: *Itepes*
- Somali: *qudhac*
- Spanish: *Acacia de copa plana*
- Swahili: *mgunga, mugumba, munga*
- Tigrigna: *akba, akiba, alla, aqba*
- Tongan: *mukoka, muzungu, ngoka*
- Tswana: *mosu, mosunyana*
- Wolof: *séng*
- Zulu: *umSasane*
- Oromo: *Lafto*
- Amharic: *Grar*



Cereus peruvianus tortuosus

Common Names: Twisted Cereus, Spiraled Cereus, Contorted Cereus
'Spiralis'

tortuosus - twisted



In case you wanted to start growing one...

FRAGRANCE & TASTE

Most specific epithets refer to appearance but sometimes the fragrance or taste of a plant deserves attention.

Citrodorus – lemon-scented

Foetidus – stinking, foetid

Inebrians –inebriating, intoxicating

Saccharinum – sweet, sugary

Succulentus – succulent, juicy



Thymus citrodorus

Common Name: Lemon Thyme or Citrus Thyme
citrodorus – lemon-scented



Symplocarpus foetidus

Common Names: Skunk Cabbage, Eastern Skunk Cabbage, Swamp Cabbage, Clumpfoot Cabbage, Meadow Cabbage, Foetid Pothos and Polecat Weed

Bruising the leaves gives off a skunk-like smell.

foetidus – stinking, foetid



Symplocarpus foetidus

Thermogenic properties of this plant enable it to generate temperatures between 27 – 63 degrees Fahrenheit higher than the surrounding air temperature.



Lagochilus inebrians

Common Names: Inebriating Mint, Intoxicating Mint, Turkistan Mint, Intoxicating Hare's Lip
inebrians – inebriating, intoxicating

Used for its intoxicating properties when made into a tea with sugar and/or honey by Tajik, Tartar, Turkoman and Uzbek tribesmen.



Acer saccharinum

Common Names: Silver Maple, Soft Maple, River Maple, Water Maple
saccharinum – sweet, sugary

Named for its light, semi-sweet sap....not to be confused with...



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Acer saccharum

Common Names: Sugar Maple, Rock Maple
saccharum – sugar

Saccharum is the genus name for sugarcane. The sap of *Acer saccharum* is sweeter and better for syrup making than that of *Acer saccharinum*.



Lupinus succulentus

Common Names: Hollowleaf Annual Lupine, Arroyo Lupine, Succulent Lupine
succulentus – succulent, juicy

Leaflets are unusually wide, almost succulent in nature. Plant favors soil with high moisture content.

NEXT TIME??

- Flowering Time
- Mountainous Habitats
- Woodland Habitats
- Open Land Habitats
- Wetland Habitats