


## Plant Features



**Directions:** Use the information below to help you describe the plants at which you are looking. A good description will have at least one label from each section.

### Section 1: Habitat:

Description:	Illustration:
Where is the plant growing? Is it in a field, garden, or forest? Is there a water source close by or is the plant in the water?	


### Section 2: Stem:





The main supporting structure of a plant. Grows from the underground roots and supports the rest of the plant allowing it to grow other structures

Label:	Description:	Illustration:
<b>Herbaceous</b>	A soft green stem	
<b>Woody</b>	A hard stem covered in bark	

### Section 3: Growth Habitat:



What is the overall structure of the plant in question? Look for how the stem grows and whether it is woody or herbaceous.


Label:	Description:	Illustration:
<b>Tree</b> <b>(Complete sections 4-9)</b>	Large woody plant with a single stem (trunk)	

<b>Label:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Illustration:</b>
<b>Shrub</b> <b>(Complete sections 4-9)</b>	Multi-stemmed woody plant	
<b>Herb</b> <b>(Complete sections 4-9)</b>	Herbaceous plant without any woody growth on it, stem does not grow for more than one season	
<b>Vine</b> <b>(Complete sections 4-9)</b>	Climbing plant with a long stem, can be herbaceous or woody	
<b>Grass</b> <b>(Complete sections 10-15)</b>	Small, narrow leaved, herbaceous plant with a leaf that wraps around the stem	

#### **Section 4: Leaf Arrangement (Non-Grasses):**



How do the leaves grow on the branch? Look for the node, a small bump on the branch from which leaves grow.

<b>Label:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Illustration:</b>
<b>Alternate</b>	Leaves grow spread out from one another in alternating nodes on the branch, 2 leaves will never grow next to each other	
<b>Opposite</b>	Leaves grow together 2 from each node	

Label:	Description:	Illustration:
<b>Whirled</b>	Leaves grow together with more than 2 leaves growing from each node, gives a three dimensional leaf arrangement as opposed to the flat pattern found in alternating and opposite arrangements	


**Section 5: Leaf Structure (Non-Grasses):**

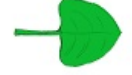



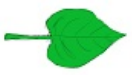
Find where the green growth from the stem of the leaf meets up with the branch or stem of the plant.

Label:	Description:	Illustration:
<b>Simple</b>	Leaf blade is in one continuous section without smaller leaflets	
<b>Compound</b>	Leaf contains a number of small leaf-like structures known as leaflets on one leaf	

**Section 6: Leaf Shape (Non-Grasses):**



Look at the overall shape of the leaf.


Label:	Description:	Illustration:
<b>Palmate</b>	Palm shaped, has numerous lobed "fingers"	

<b>Label:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Illustration:</b>
<b>Flabellate</b>	Fan shaped	
<b>Ovate</b>	Oval or egg shaped	
<b>Triangular</b>	Resembling a triangle	
<b>Lanceolate</b>	Long, narrow leaf with a slightly larger mid-section, lance shaped	
<b>Cordate</b>	Heart shaped	


### Section 7: Leaf Edge (Non-Grasses):

Look at the edge of the leaf.

<b>Label:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Illustration:</b>
<b>Smooth</b>	Edge is smooth and remains relatively straight throughout the length of the leaf	
<b>Serrated</b>	Has a saw toothed pattern to it	



Label:	Description:	Illustration:
<b>Lobed</b>	Leaf is smooth, but contains one or more indentation	

**Section 8: Flower (Non-Grasses):**

Description:	Illustration:
Is there a flower on the plant? If so what color is the flower, how many petals does it have? Is there a distinctive odor?	



**Section 9: Additional Features (Non-Grasses):**

Note whether or not these features are observed.

Label:	Description:
Seeds / Fruit	Where are they located? What color are they? What shape are they? 
Thorns	Yes or No? 



**Section 10: Stem / Culm (Grasses):**

Look from the top of the grass to check stem shape and leaf growth pattern.

Label:	Description:	Illustration:
<b>Sedge</b>	Triangular stem, leaves grow out from stem in three directions	
<b>Grass/Rush</b>	Round or flat stem, leaves grow out from stem in two directions	


**Section 11: Growth Habitat (Grasses):**





How does the entire plant grow? Look at how it is arranged over an area

Label:	Description:	Illustration:
<b>Bunchgrass</b>	Grows together forming large clumps or tufts	
<b>Sod</b>	Grows horizontally away from stems causing grass to spread evenly, like a carpet	

**Section 12: Leaf Blade (Grasses):**




Look at the entire leaf and get a sense of its overall shape.

Label:	Description:	Illustration:
<b>Parallel</b>	Leaf size remains relatively constant throughout the entire length of the leaf	

<b>Label:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Illustration:</b>
<b>Needle-like</b>	Small, thin leaf which resembles a needle	
<b>Tapering</b>	Leaf widens when moving away from the stem but narrows again when approaching the tip	
<b>Constricted at Base</b>	Leaf is wide near the stem but narrows out near the tip	
<b>Twisted</b>	Leaf has a natural twist to it	



### **Section 13: Leaf Texture (Grasses):**

Feel along the edge and surface of the leaf.

<b>Label:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Illustration:</b>
<b>Smooth</b>	Smooth to the touch, no bumps or hairs	
<b>Rough</b>	Ridged or bumpy along the edge of the leaf	
<b>Hairy</b>	Small hair-like structures growing from the edge of the leaf	

**Section 14: Leaf Tip (Grasses):**

The point of the leaf away from where it contacts the stem.

<b>Label:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Illustration:</b>
<b>Boat</b>	Tip of the leaf is rounded before coming to a slight point	
<b>Pointed</b>	Tip of the leaf comes to an abrupt narrow point	

**Section 15: Distinctive Features (Grasses):**

<b>Description:</b>	<b>Illustration:</b>
What makes this grass unique? (Ex: turkey-foot seed head, white line on leaf, "w" shape on leaf)	