

# Glossary of terms

**Aerial:** Occurring above ground or water.

**Auricles:** Earlike structures found at the junction of the blade and sheath; extensions of the leaf blade around the stem.

**Awn:** A narrow, hairlike bristle.

**Axil:** The position between the stem and a leaf.

**Axillary:** Positioned in or arising in an axil.

**Basal rosette:** Cluster of leaves radiating from the base of the stem at ground level.

**Bract:** A reduced leaf or leaflike structure at the base of a flower or flower cluster.

**Bristle:** A short, stiff hair or hairlike structure.

**Collar:** The area on the outside of a grass leaf at the junction of the blade and the sheath.

**Cotyledon:** A primary leaf of the embryo; a seed leaf.

**Creeping roots:** Thickened roots that store carbohydrates, spread vertically and horizontally in the soil and contain adventitious buds that give rise to new plants.

**Disk flower:** The central flowers of a flower head in the Asteraceae (aster family).

**Disseminate:** To disperse throughout.

**Herbaceous:** A non-woody plant with stems and leaves that die back to the ground in the winter.

**Ligule:** A membranous or hairy structure arising on the inside of the leaf at the junction of the blade and sheath.

**Node:** The position on the stem where leaves or branches originate.

**Ocrea:** A membranous, papery sheath around the stem at the nodes as in members of the Polygonaceae (smartweed family).

**Palmate:** Lobed, veined or divided from a common point, like the fingers of a hand.

**Panicle:** A flower cluster with a main axis and subdivided branches that is often pyramid-shaped.

**Petiole:** A leaf stalk.

**Pinnate:** The word used to describe a compound leaf with leaflets arranged on opposite sides of an elongated axis.

**Prickle:** A small, sharp outgrowth of the stem surface.

**Ray flower:** The straplike outer flowers of a flower head in the Asteraceae (aster family).

**Rhizome:** Belowground modified stem that gives rise to new plants.

**Sepal:** The outermost part of a flower; typically green and leaflike.

**Spikelet:** The individual flower clusters of grasses and sedges, consisting of one to many flowers subtended by two bracts (glumes).

**Stipules:** A pair of leaflike structures found at the base of a leaf.

**Stolon:** Aboveground modified stem that gives rise to new plants.

**Terminal:** The tip or end of a stem or leaf.

**Thorn:** A stiff, woody, modified stem with a sharp point.

**Trifoliolate:** The word used to describe a compound leaf consisting of three leaflets.

**Tuber:** The thickened portion of a rhizome bearing nodes and buds; underground stem modified for food storage.

**Utricle:** A thin-walled, one-seeded, more or less inflated fruit.

**Whorl:** Arrangement of three or more parts arising from a common point, as in a leaf arrangement with three or more leaves per node.

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