

The Essentialist

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Words to Grow By: Seed Catalogue & Growers Vocabulary

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(photo from public domain)

****Nothing happens in living nature that is
not in relation to the whole. Goethe****



Cotyledon

Latin names - are used because of same plant different language problems. One example is *Brassica oleracea var. botrytis*, in English – cauliflower, Japanese – *kalifurawaa*, Chinese – *Hua ye cai*.

Size - Seed descriptions include estimates of height and width of the plant. Compact means the plant grows more tightly and uniformly. Dwarf or mini is much smaller than the standard plant.

Hardiness zone – Speaks only to cold. An area in which a specific plant is capable of growing, the plants ability to withstand the minimum temperature of the zone. NW Mt. is mostly a zone 4.

Average growing season - is the number of days between last and first frost.
[Http://gardenguide.montana.edu/mtclimate.asp](http://gardenguide.montana.edu/mtclimate.asp)

Days to maturity - From the time it is planted outdoors to the time it is harvested. With transplants this is the time the plants are placed in the soil. This is an average; actual time will vary with growing conditions.

Exposure - Full sun – the plant requires at least 8 hours of direct daylight each day. **Partial sun/partial shade** - the plant will grow with 4-6 hours of daylight. **Full shade** – the plant needs less than 3 hours of direct sun per day.

Annual – Completes Life cycle in 1 year – grows, matures, blooms, produce seeds and dies. Summer annuals complete their life cycle in spring and summer. Winter annuals complete their cycle in the fall and winter.

Biennial – develop only their foliage in the first year, overwinters, then flowers and fruits. Parsley is one example, if left over winter will only produce seeds the following season.

Perennial – live for 3 or more years, often not flowering the first year. If a perennial is planted in a lower hardiness zone, should be treated as an annual.

Hybrid – The offspring of a cross between two or more varieties, usually of the same species. These plants will have characteristics of both parent plants. These can also have some undesirable traits as well.

Open-pollinated- The free exchange of pollen without regard to cultivar; pollinated without human intervention. Refers to cross-pollinated cultivars that are not hybrids.

Heirloom – Are all open-pollinated plants that have been handed down for generations. They usually taste better than hybrid varieties but are often less durable and productive in the garden.

Resistant- This implies that a variety has a certain amount of resistance when exposed to a disease-causing pathogen, such as a fungus, bacteria, or virus.

Tolerant – This implies that a variety will perform relatively well when it is exposed to environmental stresses such as hot weather, cold weather, or drought.

Certified Organic – These are seeds harvested from plants that have been grown organically, that is without chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides.

Treated – Seeds that have a coating of fungicides and/or insecticides intended to protect the seeds from rotting or insect damage in the soil before germination.

Variety – A genetically similar population of plants, distinct in one or more traits from other populations.

Cultivar – A variety of a plant that has been created or selected intentionally and maintained through cultivation.