

# 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.