

Family

A group of several genera that share an underlying set of characteristics such as structure of flowers, fruit or other parts.

Genus

A group of plants that share a range of distinct characteristics. The genus name is written in italics with an initial capital letter.

Species

A group of plants that breeds naturally to produce offspring with similar characteristics. The species has a two-part name written

Hybrid

Sexual hybrids between distinct species or genera. They are indicated by a multiplication sign, (x).

Subspecies

A naturally occurring variant of a species, differing in one or more characteristics. Indicated by 'subsp' in Roman type and an epithet in italics.

Varietas

A minor species subdivision, differing slightly in botanical structure. Indicated by 'var.' in Roman type and an epithet in italics.

Forma

A minor variant of a species, often differing in flower colour or habit from others in the species. It is indicated by 'f.' in Roman type followed by an epithet in italics.

Cultivar

Selected or artificially raised variant of a species, subspecies, varieties, form or hybrid. Indicated by a name in a modern language, printed in Roman type within single quotation marks.

Cultivar-group

An assembly of cultivars with similar characteristics within a genus, species or hybrid. They are indicated by a name in a modern language or in some cases

