What Do They Mean By That?

Have you ever puzzled over the 'scientific' names of plants? If the entire world used the same common name for a plant, taxonomic nomenclature might not be as vital, but consider how many different 'bluebells' there are. Lots! Hence, the botanical names give us the most accurate description for a plant.

Botanical names of plants have two parts: the genus name comes first, and is capitalized. The second name (epithet) is descriptive of the plant, and is in lower case letters.

What Bug Is This?

The insects that slept all winter are waking up and getting on with their life cycles in the warmer weather. We recognize the familiar critters that come to inspect our yards and gardens, but occasionally one will come along that we don't know. We found a great website to help identify spiders and insects. This is also a fun learning activity for kids! Check it out! You might even find this green lacewing!

https://www.insectidentification.org/



Epithets in plant names tell us some of its features ~ Check these ones out!

angustifolia	narrow leaves
caespitosa	dense
campanulata	bell shaped
densiflora	dense flowering
digitata	hand-like – five lobes
glabra	smooth
grandiflora	large flowered
hirsuta	hairy
humilis	short
lanceolata	lance-shaped leaves
latifolia	wide-leaved
macrophylla	large-leaved
maculata	spotted
parviflora	small-flowered
millefolia	having thousands of leaves
multiflora	many flowers
officinalis	having herbal uses
prostata	prostrate growth habit
rotundifolia	round leaves
sativa	cultivated
semperviva	perennial
spinosa	spiny
stallata	starry
umbellata	umbel shaped flowers
vulgaris	common

Now add some color to your plant names...

alba	white		
pallida	cream		
chrysantha, aurea	yellow or golden		
caerulea or azurea	blue		
rubra, or coccinea	red		
sanguinea	blood red		
purpurea	dark pink or purple		
rosea	rosy pink		
viridis	green		
argentea	silvery		

Times and Places in Plant Names...

arvensis	of the field		
australis	southern locations		
campestris	of wasteland		
maritima	near the sea		
montana	from the mountains		
palustris	from marshes		
rupestris	from hills		
saxatilis	of rocks		
silvestris	of woodlands		
praecox	of early spring		
vernalis	of spring time		
autumnalis	of autumn		



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If you have questions or need special accommodations, please message Cindy, our Volunteer Coordinator.

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