

# Gardener's Glossary

Compiled by Robert A. Wearne

- Acclimate**—Plants conditioned or becoming conditioned to a new climate or different growing environment. (See **Hardening Off**).
- Acid (Sour) Soil**—Soils with a pH below 7; most fruits and vegetables grow best when the pH is between 5.2 to 7.1.
- Aeration**—Free movement of air through the root zone of plants; prevented in compacted or waterlogged soils.
- Aerobic**—Pertaining to organisms which grow only in the presence of oxygen, as bacteria in a properly prepared compost.
- Alkaline (Sweet) Soil**—Soil with a pH above 7; some fruits and vegetables will grow in mildly alkaline (7.4–8.0) soils, such as asparagus, beans, leeks, okra, grapefruit, lemons.
- Alluvial Soils**—Recently deposited water-laid materials which have been changed very little by weather elements. Found on flood plains and valleys.
- Anaerobic**—Growing in the absence of oxygen, or not requiring oxygen. Known only in bacteria.
- Annuals**—Plants living one year or less. During this time the plant grows, flowers, produces seeds, and dies. Examples: beans, peas, sweet corn, squash.
- Axils (leaf)**—The angle or upper side where the leaf is attached to the stem.
- Bare Root**—Deciduous plants such as apple trees sold with their roots bare, not in a ball of soil.
- Biodegradable**—Materials readily decomposed in the soil by micro-organisms such as bacteria and fungi.
- Blanching**—Excluding light to reduce the green color or chlorophyll in plants or plant parts, as with celery, Witloof chicory, or cauliflower.
- Bolting**—Production of flowers and seeds by such plants as spinach, lettuce, and radishes, generally occurring when days are long and temperatures warm.
- Broadcast**—Scattering seed or fertilizers uniformly over the soil surface rather than placing in rows.
- BTU**—British Thermal Unit, a heat unit.
- BTU/hr**—Quantity of heat needed per hour to maintain a given temperature.
- Cambium Layer**—The layer of cells that lie between the bark and the wood of a tree.
- Chelate**—Molecular form in which some nutrients, such as iron, are easily absorbed by plants.
- Chill Requirement**—Number of hours that deciduous fruits require below 45° F (7.2° C) before normal growth will resume in spring. Without adequate chilling, blossoming and foliage development is delayed. Example: Elberta peaches require 900 hours below 45° F and Flordabelle only 150 hours.
- Chlorophyll**—Green coloring matter within the cells of plants.
- Chlorosis**—Lack of green color in leaves; may be caused by nutritional deficiencies, environmental conditions, or disease.
- Clone**—A group of plants derived from an individual plant by vegetative propagation such as grafting, cutting, or divisions rather than from seed.
- Clove**—One of a group of small bulbs produced by garlic and shallot plants.
- Coldframe**—An enclosed, unheated but covered frame useful for growing and protecting young plants in early spring. The top is covered with glass or plastic and located so it is heated by sunlight.
- Compost**—Decayed vegetable matter such as leaves, grass clippings, or barnyard manure. It usually is mixed with soil and fertilizer. Valuable as a mulch in a garden or for improving soil texture, and in potting soils.
- Cool Crops**—Vegetables that do not thrive in summer heat, such as cabbage, English peas, lettuce, or spinach.
- Corm**—Enlarged fleshy base of a stem, bulb-like but solid, in which food accumulates. Propagated by division of the cloves. Examples: Dasheen (Taro), garlic, and shallots.
- Cotyledon(s)**—Seed leaf or leaves containing stored food for initial seedling growth.
- Cover Crop**—Generally an annual grass or legume such as clover planted to protect the garden from wind and water erosion. Known as "green manure" because it may be plowed or turned under to provide organic matter essential to the soil.
- Crop Rotation**—Growing annual plants in a different location in a systematic sequence. This helps control insects and diseases, improves the soil texture and fertility, and decreases erosion.
- Crown (Plant)**—Growing point above the root where the tops or shoots develop as with lettuce, spinach, carrots, and celery, rhubarb.

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- Crucifer**—The mustard family. Radishes, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, and turnips are members.
- Cucurbit**—The gourd family to which cucumbers, muskmelon, watermelon, pumpkin, and squash belong.
- Cultivar**—This means "cultivated variety" and may be used in place of the word "variety" to indicate a specific horticultural selection.
- Cultivate**—To loosen the top inch or two of soil, by hand with a hoe or by using a mechanical cultivator. Primarily to control weeds.
- Cure**—To prepare for storing by drying the skins. Dry onions and sweet potatoes are typical examples.
- Cutting**—Plant stem including a node that is cut or snapped off and used to start a new plant.
- Damping Off**—A disease causing seedlings to die soon after germination, either before or after emerging from the soil.
- Deciduous**—Trees or shrubs which lose their leaves annually.
- Determinate Tomato**—Stem growth stops when the terminal bud becomes a flower bud. Tomato plants of this type are also known as self-topping or self-pruning.
- Division**—Propagation of plants by cutting them into sections as is done with plant crowns, rhizomes, stem tubers, and tuberous roots. Each section must have at least one head or stem. Example: Rhubarb.
- Dormant Spray**—Pesticide applied to a plant before growth starts (late winter or early spring) to control insects and diseases.
- Drill Row**—Small planting furrow made with a hoe, trowel, stick or mechanical drill in which seeds are planted.
- Drip Irrigation**—Watering plants so that only soil in the plant's immediate vicinity is moistened. Water is supplied from a thin plastic tube at a low flow rate. The technique sometimes is called trickle irrigation.
- Early**—Vegetables that mature sooner than others of the same species.
- Emulsifiable Concentrate**—Pesticide chemical mixture which contains an emulsifier to which water may be added to form an emulsion.
- Emulsifier**—Chemical which aids in suspending one liquid in another.
- Emulsion**—Mixture in which one liquid is suspended as tiny drops in another liquid, such as oil in water.
- Espalier**—A plant (for example, an apple tree) trained to grow on a trellis or flat against a surface such as a wall or building.
- Evaporative Cooling**—Air evaporates wa-
- ter and in the process the air loses heat to the water. Water plus heat equals vapor.
- Everbearing**—Plants such as strawberries which bloom intermittently and thus produce fruit during the entire growing season.
- Fertilization**—(1) Union of pollen with the ovule to produce seeds. This is essential in production of edible flower parts such as tomatoes, squash, corn, strawberries, and many other garden plants. (2) Application to the soil of needed plant nutrients, such as nitrogen, phosphate and potash.
- Fill Dirt**—Soil used to change the grade or elevation of an area.
- Flat**—Shallow wooden or plastic box, in which vegetable seeds may be sown or cuttings rooted.
- Foliar**—Refers to leaves.
- Foot-candle**—Standard measure of light. The light of one candle falling on a surface one foot away from the candle.
- Friable (Soil)**—Generally refers to a soil that crumbles when handled. A loam soil with physical properties that provide good aeration and drainage, easily tilled. Friable condition is improved or maintained by annual applications of organic matter.
- Fumigation**—Control of insects, disease-causing organisms, weeds, or nematodes by gases applied in an enclosed area such as a greenhouse or under a plastic cover laid on the garden soil.
- Fungicide**—A pesticide chemical used to control plant diseases caused by fungi such as molds and mildew. (See Pesticide).
- Furrow**—Small V-shaped ditch made for planting seed or irrigating. (See Drill Row).
- Germination**—Sprouting of a seed, and beginning of plant growth.
- Grafting**—Joining or insertion of one plant part called the scion upon another plant part called the rootstock so that the cambium layers of each piece make contact to produce new growth.
- Green Manure**—Crops such as legumes or grasses that are grown to be plowed or spaded into the soil to increase humus content and improve soil structure. (See Cover Crop).
- Greens**—Vegetables such as spinach, kale, collards, turnip greens.
- Growing Medium**—Soil or soil substitute prepared by combining such materials as peat, vermiculite, sand, or weathered sawdust. Used for growing potted plants or germinating seed.
- Growing Season**—Period between last killing frost in spring and first killing frost in fall.

- Growth Regulators**—Synthetic or natural organic compounds such as indoleacetic acid, gibberellin, or naphthalene acetic acid that promote, inhibit, or modify plant growth processes. Commonly used in rooting cuttings.
- Hardening Off**—Adapting plants to outdoor conditions by withholding water, lowering the temperature, or gradually eliminating the protection of a cold frame, hot bed, or greenhouse. This conditions plants for survival when transplanted outdoors.
- Hardy Plants**—Plants adapted to winter temperatures or other climatic conditions of an area. Half hardy indicates some plants may be able to take local conditions with a certain amount of protection.
- Heaving**—Caused by alternate freezing and thawing of the soil during winter. This action can push small plants out of the soil and damage their root systems.
- Heavy Soil**—Soil containing large amounts of clay. Such a soil retains moisture, should not be cultivated when wet, and can be improved by adding organic material.
- Hedgerow**—Single row of shrubs or trees which provides a screen or wildlife food and cover, improves the landscape, or serves as a fence or a windbreak.
- Heeling In**—Temporary storing of bare-rooted trees and shrubs by placing the roots in a trench and covering with soil or sawdust.
- Herbaceous Plant**—Plants that die back to the ground each winter, such as asparagus and rhubarb.
- Herbicide**—Chemical used to control weeds and undesirable vegetation.
- Hill**—Raising the soil in a slight mound for planting, or setting plants some distance apart.
- Host Plant**—Plant on which an insect or a disease-causing organism lives.
- Hot Caps**—Waxpaper cones, paper sacks, cardboard boxes or plastic jugs with bottoms removed placed over individual plants in spring for frost and wind protection.
- Hotbed**—Same type of structure as a cold frame but heated, as with an electric cable.
- Humidifier**—Air passes through wet material and evaporates water.
- Humus**—Decomposed organic material that improves texture and productive qualities of garden soils.
- Hydroponics**—Growing plants in nutrient solutions rather than soil. Also called soilless gardening.
- Hybrid F<sub>1</sub>**—Plants of a first generation hybrid of two dissimilar parents. Hybrid vigor, insect or disease resistance, and uniformity are qualities of this generation. Seed from hybrid vegetables growing in your garden should not be saved for future planting. Their vigor and productive qualities are only in the original hybrid seed.
- Immune**—Free from disease infection because of resistance. Not subject to attack by a specified pest. Immunity is absolute.
- Indeterminant Tomato**—Terminal bud is always vegetative, thus the stem grows indefinitely. Indeterminant plants can be trained on a trellis, a stake, or in wire cages. (See Determinate Tomato).
- Indigenous**—Native to a particular region. Opposite of exotic.
- Inflorescence**—Entire floral structure of a plant.
- Inoculation**—Treatment of seed with bacteria that stimulate development of bacteria nodules on plant roots. Used on legumes such as peas and beans.
- Inorganic**—Mineral content of the soil. In reference to fertilizers, those produced chemically. Not arising from natural growth.
- Insecticide**—Chemicals or agents used to control insects either on contact or as a stomach poison.
- Internode**—Region on a plant stem between the nodes.
- Interplanting**—Getting maximum production from a garden by planting early maturing vegetables between rows of slow maturing vegetables. An example is radishes or onions between rows of sweet corn.
- Irrigation**—Applying water to the soil by sprinklers, trickle or flooding.
- K**—Symbol for potash.
- Lathhouse**—Structure built of wood lath for protecting plants from too much sunlight or frost.
- Layering**—Way of propagating plants vegetatively. A stem is bent down and buried in a rooting medium to induce root development along the buried portion.
- Leaching**—Loss of soluble fertilizers, or removal of excess soluble salts, by percolating action of water downward through the soil.
- Leader**—Central and dominant stem or trunk of a tree or shrub from which the side branches develop.
- Leaf Mold**—Partially decayed leaves useful for improving soil structure and fertility.
- Leggy**—Weak-stemmed and spindly plants with sparse foliage caused by too much heat, shade, crowding, and over-fertilization.
- Legume**—Plant that takes nitrogen from air with the nitrifying bacteria that

- live on its roots. Examples are garden peas and beans.
- Lifting**—Digging a plant for replanting or winter storage.
- Light Soil**—Soil that is easy to cultivate, retains little moisture, and has sandy or coarse texture.
- Lime**—Compound containing calcium and/or magnesium, applied to soils to reduce acidity.
- Loam**—Soil that consists of less than 52% sand, 28% to 50% silt, and 7% to 27% clay, resulting in a soil texture ideal for gardening.
- Manure**—Animal waste used as soil conditioner and fertilizer.
- Micro-climate**—Climate of a small area or locality as compared to a county or State. For example, the climate adjacent to the north side of a home, or influence of a lake on a portion of a county.
- Micro-organism**—Any microscopic animal or plant that may cause a plant disease or have the beneficial effect of decomposing plant and animal residue that becomes humus.
- Mildew**—Plant disease caused by several fungi, recognized by the white cottony coating on plants.
- Minor Elements**—See Trace Elements.
- Miscible Oils**—Oils that mix with water. Used to control scale insects.
- Mist**—Applying vaporized water to cuttings in the propagating stage.
- Mites**—Extremely small sucking insects that infest various plants.
- Monoecious**—Plants that have male and female sex organs in different flowers on the same plant, such as cucumbers and squash.
- Mosaic**—Virus disease that damages or kills plants, often giving the foliage a mottled appearance. Some mosaics can be spread by sucking insects, and some by handling or tools.
- Mulch**—Materials such as straw, leaves, lawn clippings, sawdust, black plastic sheets, or newspapers laid on the soil surface to conserve moisture, maintain an even soil temperature, and control weeds.
- Nematode**—Microscopic, worm-like, transparent organism that can attack plant roots or stems to cause stunted or unhealthy growth.
- Nicotine**—Tobacco extract used as insecticide for controlling sucking insects such as aphids.
- Nitrogen**—One of plant nutrients essential for growth and green color in plants. Available in both organic and inorganic forms. Designated by the letter N.
- Nitrogen Fixation**—Transformation of nitrogen from the air into nitrogen compounds by nitrifying bacteria on the roots of legumes.
- NPK**—Symbols for three of primary nutrients needed by plants. N is for nitrogen, P for phosphate, K for potash or potassium. Percentage of these nutrients in a fertilizer package is always listed in that order.
- Node**—Region of a plant stem that normally produces leaves and buds.
- Nutrient Solution**—Liquid containing some or all essential plant nutrients required for growth. Type of solution used in hydroponic culture.
- Oil Sprays**—Compounds of mineral or vegetable oils used to control scale and other insects on trees and shrubs.
- Organic Matter**—Portion of soil resulting from decomposition of animal or plant material. Helps to maintain good structure and micro-organisms in soil. Tends to give soil a darker color.
- P**—Symbol for phosphate.
- Pan**—Shallow flower pot used for germinating seeds and for forcing and growing bulbs.
- Parasite**—Plant or insect that attaches itself to another organism and obtains food from the host. Dodder is an example of a parasite plant.
- Parthenogenic**—Fruit produced without fertilization of the ovule(s). Usually seedless. (See Fertilization 1).
- Patented**—Plant varieties protected by a government patent, granting exclusive rights to the patent holder.
- Peat or Peat Moss**—Partially decomposed plant life taken from bogs and used as rooting medium, soil conditioner, or mulch.
- Peat Pot**—Made of compressed peat and often used for starting and growing plants that can be later planted in the garden without removing the pot.
- Perennials**—Any plant which normally lives more than two years. Examples are artichoke, asparagus, raspberry, and rhubarb.
- Perlite**—Volcanic or silica material expanded by heat treatment. Used as a soil amendment and in media for rooting cuttings. (See Rooting Media).
- Pesticide**—General term for any chemical used to control pests.
- Pesticide Residue**—Material that remains on a plant after pesticide application.
- pH**—Chemical symbol used to give relative acidity or alkalinity of the soil. The scale ranges from 0 to 14, with 7 the neutral reading. Readings of less than 7 indicate acid soil, readings above indicate alkaline soil.
- Phosphate**—One of the three major plant nutrients, designated by the letter P.

- Photoperiod**—Length of the light period in a day.
- Photoperiodism**—Effect of differences in length of light period upon plant growth and development.
- Pinching**—Removing the terminal bud or growth to stimulate branching.
- Plant Food**—See Plant Nutrient.
- Plant Nutrient**—Substance or ingredient furnishing nourishment and promoting growth in plants. Examples: nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, iron and sulfur supplied by the soil, organic matter and fertilizers.
- Plant Residue**—Plant parts such as stems, leaves, and roots remaining in or on the soil after a crop is harvested.
- Plant Variety Protected**—Plant varieties protected by the Government plant variety law granting exclusive rights to the holder.
- Plunge**—To cover or sink a plant container to the rim in sawdust, soil, peat moss, or similar materials.
- Pollen**—Reproductive material, usually dust-like, produced by male part of a flower.
- Pollination, Open**—Transfer of pollen from flower of one plant to flower of the same or different plant by natural means.
- Pollination, Self**—Transfer of pollen from male part of one flower to female part of the same flower, or to another flower on the same plant.
- Post-emergence**—Applying a herbicide after the plants emerge above soil level.
- Potash**—One of three major plant nutrients essential for plant growth. Same as potassium. Designated by letter K.
- Pot-bound**—Plants whose roots completely fill a container and surround the soil ball in which they are growing, restricting normal top growth of the plant.
- Pot Herb**—Plants grown or used for greens.
- Potting Mixture**—Combination of soil and other ingredients such as peat, sand, perlite, or vermiculite designed for starting seed or growing plants in containers.
- Pre-emergence Application**—Applying a herbicide to the soil to kill weed seeds before they germinate, or after a crop is planted but before it germinates and seedlings emerge above the soil's surface.
- Propagation**—Increasing the number of plants by planting seed or by vegetative means from cuttings, division, grafting, or layering.
- Pruning**—Removing branches or twigs to control the size or shape of a plant, to control fruiting, to remove dead or broken branches, or to strengthen or improve appearance of a plant.
- Puddle**—Immersing bare roots of trees and shrubs in a mixture of soil and water during transplanting to prevent the roots from drying out. It may also mean changing the soil structure to a land mass if soil is worked or cultivated when too wet.
- Resistance**—Ability of a plant to restrict disease or insect damage or withstand severe climatic conditions.
- Respiration**—Chemical process by which the plant absorbs oxygen from the air and releases water and carbon dioxide into the air.
- Rest Period**—Normal period of inactivity in growth of a plant.
- Rhizome**—Horizontal underground stem distinguished from a root by the presence of nodes and internodes and buds and scale-like leaves.
- Ridging**—Pulling the soil into a low ridge at the base of plants. Potatoes are commonly ridged or hilled to keep the tubers covered and prevent greening caused by exposure to sunlight.
- Ringing**—Removing a narrow strip of bark from around a branch or tree trunk to encourage fruiting. Only bark is removed, and the ring does not extend into the cambium layer.
- Ripe**—Stage of maturity at which fruits and certain vegetables should be harvested and preserved.
- Rogue**—Off-type or diseased plant. Or removal of such plants from the garden.
- Root-bound**—When plants have grown in a container too long. The roots become a mass of fibers and no longer support desired top growth. Same as pot-bound.
- Root Crop**—Vegetables grown for their edible roots, such as beets, carrots, radishes and turnips.
- Rooting Media**—Materials such as peat, sand, or vermiculite in which cuttings are placed during the development of roots.
- Root Knot**—Growth on plant roots caused by nematodes.
- Rootstock**—Root system upon which named varieties of fruit have been grafted. For example, apple varieties are grafted onto dwarfing or size-controlling rootstocks.
- Runner**—Slender, elongated and prostrate branch that has buds and can form roots at the nodes or at the tip. An example is a strawberry runner.
- Rust**—Plant disease caused by a fungus and characterized by a round red or

- yellow lesion. May be found on beans, spinach, sweet corn or raspberries.
- Scale**—Small sucking insects protected by a shield-like or cottony covering and found on various fruit trees.
- Scion**—Piece of a plant, either bud or graft, that is inserted in an established tree or rootstock.
- Seed Bed**—Garden soil after it has been prepared for planting seeds or transplants by plowing and disking, rototilling, spading or raking.
- Seed Leaves**—(see Cotyledon).
- Seedling**—Young plant developing from a germinating seed. It usually has the first true leaves developed.
- Sets**—Small onion bulbs used for early planting.
- Shade Device**—Plastic netting, latex paint, whitewash, cheesecloth or other material used to reduce light and heat entering a plant-growing structure.
- Short Season Vegetables**—Vegetables ready for harvest after one to two months following planting.
- Sidressing**—Applying fertilizer on soil surface close enough to a plant so cultivating or watering would carry the fertilizer to the plant's roots.
- Silt**—Soil particles that are between sand and clay in size.
- Slips**—Same as "cutting". A way of vegetatively propagating plants.
- Small Fruits**—Fruits produced on bushes, vines, or low growing plants as compared to fruits produced on trees.
- Softwood Cutting**—Cutting taken from a woody or herbaceous plant before it has matured.
- Soil**—Upper layer of the earth's surface, composed of organic matter, minerals, and micro-organisms, and capable of supporting plant life.
- Soil Aeration**—Mechanical loosening of the soil to facilitate water and air circulation.
- Soil Amendment**—Any material added to soil to improve physical and productive qualities.
- Soil-borne Fungi**—Any fungus living in the soil and capable of causing plant disease.
- Soilless Culture**—Same as hydroponics. Growing plants in nutrient solutions and not in soil.
- Soil Sterilization**—Treating soil by fumigation, chemicals, heat or steam to destroy disease-causing organisms.
- Soil Survey**—Systematic examination of soils in the field and in laboratories; publishing of descriptions and classifications; mapping of kinds of soils; and interpretation of soils according to their adaptability to various crops such as fruits, vegetables, and trees.
- Soil Testing**—Laboratory chemical analysis of soil to determine the supply of available nutrients such as phosphorus, potassium, or calcium, the percent of organic matter, and the soil acidity or alkalinity. Tests for minor elements can also be made.
- Soil Texture**—Proportional amounts of sand, silt, clay, and organic matter in a given soil.
- Sour Soil**—Same as an acid soil or one that has a pH below 7. See pH.
- Specimen Plant**—A plant with some outstanding quality such as flowers, leaves, fruit, or branching habit and located as a focal point in the landscape.
- Sphagnum**—Mosses which grow in bogs and when decomposed become peat moss.
- Spreader**—Materials added to pesticide sprays to aid in distribution and coverage of the plant. Can also mean the mechanism used for spreading seed and fertilizers on the soil.
- Staking**—Tying plants such as tomatoes to a stake to provide support.
- Starter Solution**—Fertilizer solution applied to plants at time of transplanting.
- Sticker**—Material added to pesticide spray to improve adherence to plant surface.
- Stolon**—Slender, prostrate subterranean stem. It may produce a tuber such as a potato.
- Stone Fruit**—Plants whose fruits contain a pit or stone such as cherries, peaches, plums, or apricots.
- Stool or Stooling**—Sprouts that arise from the base of a plant, sometimes called suckers. They may be used as a method of propagation.
- Stress (Water)**—Plant(s) unable to absorb enough water to replace that lost by transpiration. Results may be wilting, halting of growth, or death of the plant or plant parts.
- Stunt**—Diseases caused by certain viruses that dwarf a plant and make it unproductive.
- Sub-irrigation**—Application of water from below the soil surface, usually by a perforated hose or pipe.
- Subsoil**—Layers of soil below the top soil. It often is less fertile and contains less organic matter.
- Sucker**—Stem that rises from a root or rootstock and should be removed from grafted trees.
- Sunscald**—Caused by the sun warming trunks and large branches during winter, resulting in cracking and splitting of the bark. It can be prevented by shading or whitewashing tree trunks and larger branches. Sunscald may also occur on fruit exposed to direct sunlight.

- Susceptible**—Inability of plants to restrict activities of a specified pest, or to withstand an adverse environmental condition.
- Syringe**—Applying a mist-like spray to seedlings or transplants to reduce or replace moisture lost by transpiration.
- Systemic**—Pesticide material absorbed by plants, making them toxic to feeding insects. Also, pertaining to a disease in which an infection spreads throughout the plant.
- Tamping**—Lightly firming soil over seeds or around newly-set transplants.
- Tankage**—Fertilizer prepared from slaughterhouse refuse that has been sterilized and pulverized.
- Tendrils**—Slender twining organ found along stems of some plants such as grapes, which helps the vine to both climb and cling to a support.
- Thermostat**—Electrical control device. It can turn on or off a heater, fan, or heating cable at a set temperature.
- Thinning**—Removing small or young plants from a row to provide remaining plants with more space to grow and develop.
- Till**—To prepare and use land for crop or plant growth by plowing, fertilizing and cultivating.
- Tilth**—Physical condition of a soil. "Good tilth" indicates soil has right proportions of sand, silt, clay, and organic matter so it is easily worked or cultivated.
- Tolerant**—Ability of plants to endure a specified pest or an adverse environmental condition, growing and producing despite the disorder.
- Topdressing**—Applying materials such as fertilizer or compost to the soil surface while plants are growing.
- Topworking**—Grafting one or more varieties to the branches of a tree.
- Trace Elements**—Minerals such as boron, manganese, iron or zinc normally required only in small amounts by plants. Also known as "minor elements."
- Transplanting**—Digging up a plant and moving it from one location to another.
- Transpiration**—Loss of water through openings called stomata on the leaves of plants.
- Tree Dressing**—Paint or paste used to cover and protect wounds of a tree caused by limb breakage or pruning.
- Trellis**—an open lattice structure used for shade or to support plants.
- Trenching**—Deep digging of garden soil and mixing in compost, manure, or some other soil conditioner.
- Trowel**—Garden tool with a wide blade and short handle used for digging and transplanting.
- True Leaf**—An ordinary leaf, which functions in the production of food by a plant.
- Tuber (Stem)**—Thickened or swollen underground branch or stolon with numerous buds or eyes. Thickening occurs because of the accumulation of reserved food. Example: A potato or Jerusalem artichoke.
- Tuberous Roots**—Thickened roots, differing from stem tubers in that they lack nodes and internodes, and buds are present only at the crown or stem end. Example: Sweet potato.
- Variety**—Closely related plants forming subdivision of a species and having similar characteristics. (See Cultivar).
- Vector**—Any agent such as an insect or animal that transmits, carries, or spreads disease from one plant to another.
- Vegetative Growth**—Growth of stems and foliage on plants as opposed to flower and fruit development.
- Vegetative Propagation**—Increasing the number of plants by such methods as cuttings, grafting, or layering.
- Ventilation**—Changing the air in a building by fans or natural methods.
- Vermiculite**—A mica product expanded by heat, forming a lightweight soil additive. Often used in synthetic soil mixes or as a rooting medium for cuttings.
- Viable**—Alive, such as seed capable of germinating.
- Virus**—Pathogenic organism too small to be seen with a compound microscope but capable of causing plant diseases. Often spread from infected to healthy plants by sucking insects such as aphids or thrips, or through pruning or handling of plants.
- Water Sprout**—Rapid growing succulent shoot which may appear on a trunk or limb of a fruit tree. It frequently appears after a tree has been heavily pruned.
- Wettable Powders**—Pesticide blended with a filler and wetting agent to permit mixing with water.
- Wetting Agent**—Material included in pesticide solutions that reduces surface tension and helps to completely cover the surface or foliage area of the plant being sprayed. (See Spreader).
- Wilting**—Drooping of leaves and stems due to lack of water. Can result from root damage, disease, injury, or hot drying winds.
- Windrow**—Hay, grain, leaves, etc. swept or raked into rows to dry.