#### **HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR PLANT IDENTITICATION**

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For a basic explanation of why we use botanical names:

<https://www.ourhouseplants.com/guides/understanding-latin-plant-names>

**A great place to start plant identification** is to type in the **Google Search** box:

the plant *Genus* followed by the words lower classifications, e.g.: Philodendron lower classifications. This works for varieties as well. The search returns a row of pictures of the different species or varieties. Clicking on the one that looks closest to what you are trying to identify then takes you to a page devoted to entries on that specific plant. Many of these sites give care instructions, growth habits as well as the botanical name.

**Please do not use Dave’s Garden, Pinterest, Etsy or Amazon for plant identification as there is a lot of misinformation on these sites.**

**Once you have arrived at a botanical name,** you can verify if it is an acceptable botanical name by entering that name on the search line of the site recommended by **NGC:** <http://www.plantsoftheworldonline.org/>. There is no site that verifies if cultivar or variety names is botanically correct. You can only verify ***Genus species.***

**How to hand write the botanical name:** You do not need to include the family. Just write the **Genus species**. Note both words are underlined, and the species is not capitalized. If you only know the Genus and variety or cultivar of a plant, use **Genus ‘Cultivar’.** Note, the Genus is underlined and begins with a capital letter, the Cultivar or Variety is capitalized and not underlined. The cultivar or variety name is enclosed in SINGLE quotes. When writing an entry card that includes multiple plants, after the first plant, subsequent plants of the same Genus are abbreviated to the initial capital letter followed by a period then the rest of the name, e.g.: Draceana fragrans, D. ‘Lemon Lime’. All plants are separated by commas. The plants do not need to be in consecutive order to be abbreviated. All plants in a single container must be identified.

**Great general websites with pictures that are searchable by plant name:**

<https://garden.org/plants/> **or** <https://floridata.com/plantlist/> **or**

<https://www.south-florida-plant-guide.com/> **or**

<https://www.jaycjayc.com/plants-index-by-botanical-names/#.XdnnxFdKjSE>(includes common names but has lots of ads)

**or**  [[Glasshouse Works: Rare & Exotic Plants](https://www.glasshouseworks.com/) then select tropicals-and-houseplant](https://www.glasshouseworks.com/tropicals-and-houseplant)

**The following websites are more plant specific with pictures and text that help you distinguish**

**your plant from others in the same Genus and or species.**

To Use this list, position your cursor anywhere on a website highlighted in blue then press control (Ctrl) while clicking on the left mouse button or left pad on your laptop touch pad. Hovering over the website link displays a pop up that says to follow the link press CTRL plus click.

1. ***Adenium*** (desert rose) <https://www.gardenmandy.com/desert-rose/>
2. ***Acalypha*** (copper leaf) many varieties including the chenille plant, petticoat plant see [TopTropicals.com - We Grow Happiness!](https://toptropicals.com/cgi-bin/store/store.cgi?find=acalypha&find_in_name_only=1&find_entire_word=1)
3. **African violets** - *Saintpaulia* are now in *Streptocarpus*- See Below.
4. ***Aglaonema*** (Chinese evergreen) [23 Beautiful Aglaonema Varieties (Chinese Evergreen) - Smart Garden Guide](https://smartgardenguide.com/aglaonema-varieties/)
5. ***Alocasia*** (elephant ear) <https://www.google.com/search?q=alocasia+lower+classifications> **OR** <https://wimastergardener.org/article/elephant-ears-colocasia-alocasia-and-xanthosoma/>
6. ***Aloe*** [https://www.google.com/search?q=aloe+lower+classifications](%20https:/www.google.com/search?q=aloe+lower+classifications) **OR** <https://www.gardenloversclub.com/houseplants/aloe-vera/different-types-of-aloe-plants/> **OR** [19 Interesting Types of Aloe Plants with Pictures | Succulent Alley](https://succulentalley.com/types-of-aloe-plants-with-pictures/)
7. ***Allamanda*** <https://toptropicals.com/html/toptropicals/plant_wk/allamanda.htm>
8. **Amaryllis** botanical name is ***Hippeastrum* x *hybridum***  See Below.
9. ***Angelonia***<https://www.bhg.com/gardening/plant-dictionary/annual/angelonia/> **OR** <https://www.costafarms.com/plants/angelonia>
10. ***Anthurium***  <https://www.google.com/search?q=anthurium+lower+classifications> **OR** <https://smartgardenguide.com/anthurium-varieties>
11. ***Asclepias*** (milkweed) <https://www.themonarchinitiative.org/assets/ext/img/monarch/native-milkweed.pdf>
12. ***Asparagus*** (asparagus fern) None of the following are true ferns: Asparagus densiflorus ‘Meyeri’ (foxtail fern); its low sprawling cousin, *Asparagus aethiopicus,* is on the invasive list. *Asparagus setaceus* (plumosa fern) is a thorny vine while the *Asparagus retrofractus* (ming fern) is a bush/small tree.
13. ***Aspidistra*** (cast iron plant) <https://www.plantdelights.com/apps/photo-gallery/Cast_Iron_Plant_Photo_Gallery>
14. ***Barleria*** (Philippine violet) <https://www.google.com/search?q=barleria+lower+classifications>
15. ***Beaucarnia (***ponytail palm)<https://succulent-plant.com/families/nolinaceae.html>
16. ***Begonia*** See the Begonia Society website for basic info and some pictures: <https://www.begonias.org/greenhouse/index.htm> **OR** to identify type by leaf <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/begonia/begonia-leaves.htm>
17. ***Bougainvillea*** Varieties arranged by color [BOUGAINVILLEAS](https://bougainvilleas.com/bougainvilleas/)
18. ***Bowiea*** (climbing onion) <https://www.thespruce.com/climbing-sea-onion-plant-profile-5071999>
19. **Bromeliads** For basic characteristics to help you identify genus see photo at bottom of document. This site has the flow chart on the same page: <https://fcbs.org/articles/bromeliad_key_for_dummies.htm>This site has pictures with names: <https://www.pbase.com/edgegallery/bromeliads> Great local source for plants [Collections – Tropiflora](https://tropiflora.com/collections/)
20. ***Brunfelsia***(yesterday, today, and tomorrow) <https://floridata.com/Plants/Solanaceae/Brunfelsia%20pauciflora/782>
21. **Cactus** (Succulents). <https://www.google.com/search?q=cactus+lower+classification>,

A great website that helps identify Cactus by their shape: <http://cactiguide.com/cactus/>

1. ***Caladium*** <https://happinessfarms.com/shop/>
2. ***Calathea***  <https://www.costafarms.com/plants/calathea>
3. ***Callistemon*** (bottlebrush) <http://homeguides.sfgate.com/bottlebrush-varieties-64445.html>
4. ***Canna***  [https://www.plantdelights.com/blogs/articles/canna-lily-bulbs-plant-canna-lilies](https://www.plantdelights.com/blogs/articles/canna-lily-bulbs-plant-canna-lilies%20)
5. ***Cassia*** [Cassia Trees (south-florida-plant-guide.com)](https://www.south-florida-plant-guide.com/cassia-trees.html)
6. ***Chlorophytum***(spider plant) <https://plantcaretoday.com/spider-plant-care.html>
7. **Citrus** <https://www.thespruce.com/citrus-photo-gallery-4121783>
8. ***Clerodendrum*** <https://toptropicals.com/cgi-bin/garden_catalog/cat.cgi?find=Clerodendrum>
9. ***Codiaeum*** (croton) for names with pictures for most common varieties see by leaf shape <https://www.palmpedia.net/wiki/Category:LEAF_SHAPE> **OR** <https://www.mercerbotanicals.com/products/Listing/Croton_Codiaeum/6.html> **OR**  <https://peterscrotonnursery.com/order>
10. ***Coleus*** formerly known as*Plectranthus.* A definitive site*:* [Online Coleus Plant Catalog | Rosy Dawn Gardens, | Coleus Growing Spec](https://rosydawngardens.com/) Be sure to include the registered or trademark names along with the cultivar name
11. ***Combretum*** (Rangoon creeper) [https://garden.org/plants/view/92435/Rangoon-Creeper-Combretum-indicum/](https://garden.org/plants/view/92435/Rangoon-Creeper-Combretum-indicum/%20)
12. ***Cordyline*** (ti plant) <https://www.smgrowers.com/info/cordyline.asp> **OR** with pictures <https://balconygardenweb.com/indoor-types-of-cordyline-varieties-ti-plant/>
13. ***Coreopsis*** (tickseed) <https://www.gardenia.net/compare-plants/coreopsis>
14. ***Crinum*** <https://www.plantdelights.com/collections/crinum> **OR** <https://garden.org/plants/browse/plants/children/76120/>
15. ***Crossandra*** <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/crossandra.html>
16. ***Cuphea*** (cigar plant) <https://www.google.com/search?q=cuphea+lower+classifications> **OR** <https://www.bhg.com/gardening/plant-dictionary/annual/cuphea/>
17. ***Cycas*** (sago palm) [https://www.google.com/search?q=cycad+species](https://www.google.com/search?q=cycad+species%20)
18. ***Cyperus*** (papyrus) [https://www.ourhouseplants.com/plants/umbrella-grass-cyperus](%20https:/www.ourhouseplants.com/plants/umbrella-grass-cyperus) Note: pay attention to leaf width.
19. ***Dieffenbachia***(dumb cane) <https://www.costafarms.com/plants/dieffenbachia>
20. ***Dracaena*** for *Draceanas* <https://www.costafarms.com/plants/dracaena> **OR** [Types of Dracaena with Care Guide and Pictures (leafyplace.com)](https://leafyplace.com/types-of-dracaena/)

For plants formerly known as Sansevierias <https://leafyplace.com/snake-plants-sansevieria-varieties/>***OR***  <https://succulentalley.com/sansevieria-varieties-identification/> **OR**

<https://www.llifle.com/Encyclopedia/SUCCULENTS/Family/Dracaenaceae/Sansevieria/> **OR** <https://www.bobsmoleys.com/sansev.html>

1. ***Echinacea*** (coneflower) <https://www.homestratosphere.com/types-of-coneflowers/>
2. ***Epipremnum***  (pothos) <https://www.costafarms.com/plants/pothos>
3. ***Episcia*** [Episcia - The Violet Barn - African Violets and More](https://www.violetbarn.com/store/episcia-c10.html)
4. ***Equisetum*** (horsetail) <https://alchetron.com/Equisetum>
5. ***Euphorbia***  <https://www.google.com/search?q=euphorbia+lower+classifications>
6. ***Farfugium*** (leopard or tractor seat) [https://www.plantdelights.com/collections/farfugium](%20https:/www.plantdelights.com/collections/farfugium)
7. ***Fatsia*** (paper plant) [https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/fatsia-japonica/](%20https:/plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/fatsia-japonica/)
8. **Fern**  <https://www.google.com/search?q=fern+types> **OR** <https://leafyplace.com/types-of-ferns/>

**or** <https://www.costafarms.com/plants/fern>

Some of the most common ferns are listed below:

***Adiantum*** (maidenhair) <https://www.google.com/search?q=adiantum+lower+classifications>

***Asplenium*** (bird’s nest) <https://www.google.com/search?q=asplenium+lower+classifications>

***Microsorum*** (elkhorn) <https://www.nparks.gov.sg/florafaunaweb/flora/1/5/1552>

***Platycerium***(staghorn) [Staghorn Fern, Platycerium bifurcatum – Wisconsin Horticulture](https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/staghorn-fern-platycerium-bifurcatum/)

**Note: asparagus fern is NOT a fern - see *Asparagus* above.**

1. ***Ficus*** <https://leafyplace.com/ficus-tree/>
2. **Flowers** (all) by common name Pictures based website: <https://www.flowerspicture.org/flowers_by_name.html>
3. ***Gaillardia***(blanket flower) <https://garden.org/plants/browse/plants/children/528561/>
4. ***Gardenia*** <https://www.google.com/search?q=gardenia+lower+classifications>
5. ***Gerbera*** <https://www.flowerspicture.org/gerbera-daisy-varieties.html>
6. **Ginger** (subclass by species) <http://www.bambooland.com.au/plants/gingers> **OR** <https://leafyplace.com/types-of-ginger/>
7. ***Gloriosa*** <https://www.gardenia.net/plant/gloriosa-lilies>
8. ***Hamelia*** (firebush) <https://www.floridanativenurseries.org/info/plants/the-hamelia-mess/>
9. ***Hedera***(ivy) <https://www.costafarms.com/plants/ivy>
10. ***Helianthus*** (sunflower) <https://www.google.com/search?q=helianthus+lower+classifications> **OR** <https://www.trees.com/flowers/sunflowers>
11. ***Heliconia*** (lobster claw) <https://www.bambooland.com.au/plants/heliconias/>
12. ***Hibiscus*** <https://www.hiddenvalleyhibiscus.com/misc/hibiscustypes.htm>
13. ***Hippeastrum*** (amaryllis) [https://sweetdreamamaryllis.com/shop/ols/products](%20https:/sweetdreamamaryllis.com/shop/ols/products) **OR** [https://www.amaryllis.com/pages/amaryllis-planting-and-care#](https://www.amaryllis.com/pages/amaryllis-planting-and-care) then select shop
14. ***Hoyas***<https://www.google.com/search?q=hoya+lower+classifications> **OR**
15. <https://smartgardenguide.com/hoya-varieties/>
16. ***Ixora*** <https://www.google.com/search?q=ixora+lower+classification> **OR** <http://www.jaycjayc.com/ixora-species-jungleflame/#.WjFXDkqnHSE>
17. ***Jasmine*** <https://www.thespruce.com/jasmine-shrubs-and-vines-3269711> **OR** <https://mygardenflowers.com/types-of-jasmine-flowers/>
18. ***Jatropha*** (Buddha belly) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jatropha_podagrica> Note the other varieties are generally bushes ortrees and should be in arboreal[https://www.google.com/search?q=jatropha+lower+classification](https://www.google.com/search?q=jatropha+lower+classification%20%20)
19. ***Justicia***(shrimp plant) <https://www.google.com/search?q=justicia+lower+classifications>
20. ***Kalanchoe*** <https://www.glasshouseworks.com/succulents/succulents-k?page=1>
21. ***Kohleria*** <https://www.violetbarn.com/store/kohleria.html>
22. ***Lantana*** <https://www.thespruce.com/add-a-florida-touch-with-lantana-plants-2132142>
23. **Lily** <https://www.google.com/search?q=lily+varieties>
24. ***Liriope*** (lilyturf) <https://www.thespruce.com/liriope-plants-popular-varieties-of-border-grass-2132483>
25. ***Lonicera*** (honeysuckle) <https://garden.org/plants/group/loniceras/>
26. ***Mandevilla*** <https://www.costafarms.com/get-growing/news/a-shopper-s-guide-to-mandevilla>
27. ***Maranta***(prayer plant) <https://www.costafarms.com/plants/prayer-plant>
28. ***Megaskepasma*** (Brazilian red cloak)  [https://www.south-florida-plant-guide.com/brazilian-red-cloak.html](%20https:/www.south-florida-plant-guide.com/brazilian-red-cloak.html)
29. ***Monstera*** pay attention to leaf size and margins. Swiss cheese (***adansonii*)** is smaller and has no gaps on leaf edges, ***deliciosa*** has giant leaves and gaps on edges <https://www.gardenista.com/posts/gardening-101-monstera-deliciosa-tropical-plant-guide/>
30. **Orchids** For a basic identification to help you find what genus it belongs to try: by flower form: <https://www.orchid-care-tips.com/types-of-orchids.html> by leaf shape:<https://www.repotme.com/orchid-care/Orchid-Identification.html#Phal>
31. **Palms**  [https://leafyplace.com/types-of-palm-trees/](%20https:/leafyplace.com/types-of-palm-trees/)
32. ***Pandanus*** (screw pine) <https://www.guide-to-houseplants.com/screw-pine.html> **or** for the dwarf <https://artistree.com/2019/12/09/variegated-dwarf-pandanus-earns-stripes-in-southwest-florida/>
33. ***Pandorea*** (bower vine) <https://toptropicals.com/cgi-bin/garden_catalog/cat.cgi?uid=PANDOREA_JASMINOIDES&comments=1>
34. ***Passiflora***(passion vine) <https://www.google.com/search?q=passiflora+varieties>
35. ***Pelargonium*** (geranium) [https://www.costafarms.com//plants/geranium](https://www.costafarms.com/plants/geranium)
36. ***Pentas*** [https://www.costafarms.com//plants/pentas](https://www.costafarms.com/plants/pentas)
37. ***Peperomia***  <https://www.costafarms.com/plants/peperomia>
38. ***Philodendron*** <https://garden.org/plants/group/philodendron/> **or** <https://leafyplace.com/philodendron-types/>
39. ***Plectranthus*** 
    1. *P. scutellarioides* (coleus) Coleus is back to being called Coleus, see above. <https://rosydawngardens.com/>
    2. *Plectranthus* (Cuban oregano and Swedish Ivy) [Plectranthus | Better Homes & Gardens (bhg.com)](https://www.bhg.com/gardening/plant-dictionary/annual/plectranthus/)
40. ***Plumbago*** <https://www.homestratosphere.com/types-of-leadwort-flowers/>
41. ***Plumeria***(frangipani) <http://homeguides.sfgate.com/named-varieties-plumeria-65328.html>
42. ***Rhododendron*** (azalea) <https://floridata.com/Plants/Ericaceae/Rhododendron+austrinum/992> **OR** <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/trees-and-shrubs/shrubs/azalea.html> **OR** [Best Azalea Varieties | Southern Living](https://www.southernliving.com/home-garden/gardens/best-azaleas?)
43. ***Rosa*** Rose) <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/roses/different-types-of-roses.htm> **OR** <https://leafyplace.com/types-of-roses/>
44. ***Russelia*** (firecracker plant) [https://toptropicals.com/catalog/uid/Russelia\_equisetiformis.htm](https://toptropicals.com/catalog/uid/Russelia_equisetiformis.htm%20)  Follow links at bottom for other *Russelia* species
45. ***Salvia*** <https://www.fbts.com/salvias-a-to-z>
46. ***Saintpaulia*** (African violet) are now *Streptocarpus*- See Below.
47. ***Sansevierias*** are now *Draceana - See Above*
48. ***Spathiphyllum*** (peace lily) <https://www.costafarms.com/plants/peace-lily>
49. ***Stachytarpheta*** (porterweed) <https://www.south-florida-plant-guide.com/porterweed.html>
50. ***Streptocarpus*** including African violets <https://www.logees.com/browse-by-botanical-name/streptocarpus.html> Or <https://www.violetbarn.com/store/saintpaulia-species.html?page=all> Or [Front Page - African Violet Society of America](https://africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org/) then select photo gallery of 3000 photos.
51. ***Strelitzia***(bird of paradise) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strelitzia>
52. ***Stromanthe*** <https://toptropicals.com/catalog/uid/Stromanthe_sp.htm>
53. **Succulents** Hover over a picture to get the botanical name at [Gallery of Succulent Plants - illustrated on The Succulent Plant Page (succulent-plant.com)](https://succulent-plant.com/thumbnails.html) **OR** <https://www.glasshouseworks.com/succulents> **OR** <https://www.succulentsandsunshine.com/types-of-succulents-plants/> **OR** <https://succulentsbox.com/blogs/blog/how-to-identify-different-types-of-succulent-part-ii-aloe-agave-gasteria-and-haworthia> The links to the other parts of this series that groups similar looking succulents together and explains how to differentiate them are on this page as well as a video link. **OR** <https://succulentalley.com/types-of-succulents-with-pictures/>
54. ***Syngonium (***arrowhead plant) [https://www.costafarms.com//plants/arrowhead-plant](https://www.costafarms.com/plants/arrowhead-plant) **OR** <https://planterina.com/blogs/plant-care/syngonium-care>
55. ***Tagetes*** (marigolds) <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/marigolds.> **OR**  [4 Types of Marigolds PLUS How to Grow and Benefits (Marigolds Guide) - Home Stratosphere](https://www.homestratosphere.com/types-of-marigolds/)
56. ***Thaumatophyllum*** (xanadu) formerly known as *Philodendron* [*https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thaumatophyllum\_xanadu*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thaumatophyllum_xanadu)
57. ***Thunbergia*** <https://www.google.com/search?q=thunbergia+lower+classifications&stick>
58. ***Tradescantia*** (spiderwort) <https://premiersucculents.com/post/802649180019/which-variety-do-i-have-tradescantia>
59. ***Vinca*** (periwinkle) <https://www.costafarms.com/get-growing/news/a-shopper-s-guide-to-vinca>
60. ***Viola*** <https://www.google.com/search?q=violet+lower+classifications>
61. ***Zamioculcas*** (ZZ plant) <https://www.nature-and-garden.com/gardening/zz-plant.html>

