

Plant Terminology Quick Reference Guide

Term	Species Straight Species Local Ecotype Native (LEN)	Subspecies	Variety	<u>Cultivar:</u> Selection Nativar	<u>Cultivar:</u> Hybrid	<u>Cultivar:</u> Patented Plants
How it's Written	<i>Penstemon Digitalis</i> Beardtongue	<i>Sambucus nigra</i> subsp. <i>canadensis</i> American elderberry	<i>Viburnum nudum</i> var. <i>cassinoides</i> Witherod viburnum	<i>Symphotrichum oblongifolium</i> 'October Skies' Aromatic Aster 'October Skies'	<i>Calamagrostis x acutiflora</i> 'Karl Foerster' Feather reed grass	<i>Daphne x transatlantica</i> 'BLAFRA' Plant Patent #18,361 Eternal Fragrance Daphne
What it Means	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the naturally occurring species. If you collect seeds and grow them out, the seedlings will grow "true to form," i.e., have the same characteristics of the parents. A local ecotype native is a plant that originated nearby, in a similar region, ecosystem, or habitat. Natural genetic diversity is preserved by seed propagation of species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A naturally occurring population of a species, usually found in a particular geographic region. Look for the "subsp." or "ssp." in the botanical name. Seedling offspring generally grows true to type. Natural genetic diversity is preserved by seed propagation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A naturally occurring subset of a species with one or more distinctive characteristics from the general species. Look for the "var." in the botanical name. Seedling offspring generally grow true to type. Natural genetic diversity is preserved by seed propagation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cultivated variety, or selection, from within a species, where the distinctive characteristics have been intentionally cultivated. Seedling offspring may not grow true to type. Most selections and nativars are vegetatively, or clonally propagated. Genetic diversity is NOT preserved because offspring are genetically identical to parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A a genetic cross between two different species, usually – but not always – created by humans (there are naturally occurring hybrids). Seedling offspring do not grow true to form Natural genetic diversity is NOT preserved because offspring are either clonally propagated or the result of intentional crosses that limit the natural mixing of genes in a species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cultivar that has been legally protected by its owner, such that it may not be bred, propagated or sold except by the patent holder. Look for the # in the botanical name or on the tag. Serious fines can be levied if patented plants are used or sold unlawfully.