

A Horticultural Jargon Buster



The following list of terms is not definitive and is provided as a guide only

We hope you find this guide useful and we welcome any additions which help to grow this glossary of terms.

Acclimatisation	- Adjusting plants to different conditions than those in which they are growing
Acid Soil	- A soil with a pH lower than 7.0
Accelerator	- A product used to speed the decomposition of organic matter
Aerate	- Incorporate air by cultivation /removing thatch to aerate a lawn
Aerobic	- Requires oxygen to live
Air Pot	- A growing technique in a wrap round pot that results in a fibrous root system
Alkaline Soil	- A Soil that has a pH level of 7.0 or more
Anaerobic	- Organisms living or occurring when oxygen is absent
Annual	- A plant that will complete its life cycle in one growing season
Anti-Transparent	- Applied to foliage of evergreens reduces water loss for newly planted stock
Aquatic	- BUNCH – Multiple stems usually weighted DEEP WATER – Roots on the bed / leaves & flowers on the surface FLOATING – Living on the surface of the water MARGINAL – Planted to the surrounds, roots in the water crown out of the water
Bare-Rooted	- Plants that have been dug out of the ground with no soil around the roots
Base Dressing	- An application of fertiliser, organic matter or soil before planting
Bedding	- A short lived planting providing floral impact seasonally
Beneficial Insect	- Insects that will improve soil, attack harmful insects / pollinate plants
Bi-Annual	- A plant that completes its life cycle in 2 years
Biodegradable	- Able to breakdown by natural means
Biological Pest Con.	- Using living organisms, to destroy pests

A Horticultural Jargon Buster



Blanching - Excluding light to make leaves and stems tenderer

Blight - A fungal or bacterial disease, causing dead patches on stems or leaves

Blossom End Rot - A rotten spot at the blossom end of tomato fruit

Bolting - Crops that flower / grow prematurely

Breaking Bud - The point in time as the bud bursts through the bud scales

Bulb Guide -



Flowering period (months)



Humus rich location



Height in cm.



Calcareous location



Bulb size (circumference in cm.)



Moist location



Naturalising bulbs



Bulbs suitable for pots



Bulbs per m²



Organic flower bulbs



Mowing period (months)



Bulbs/mixtures attracting butterflies



Sunny location



Bulbs/mixtures attracting bees



Semi shade



Fragrant flowers



Shady location

Calcicole - A plant preferring an alkaline soil (pH +7.0), usually a limey soil

Calcifuge - A plant preferring an acidic (pH -7.0), usually a peaty or organic soil

Canker - A breakdown of cells from the phloem outwards

Catch Cropping - When you sow a quick maturing crop into a vacant gap

Chitting - Encouraging germination

Chlorophyll - The matter (green) essential for photosynthesis

Chlorosis - A symptom of deficiency, usually iron, stress or disease (yellowing)

Click & Collect - The collection of orders placed on line following a lead period

A Horticultural Jargon Buster



Clay	- Soil particles less than 0.002mm, as a soil greater than 40%
Cloche	- A structure for protecting plants from the cold and pests
Club Root	- A disease of brassicas caused by the slime mould fungus
Co-co Wrap	- A material wrapped around the root ball to prolong the planting season of a RB
Cold Frame	- An unheated outdoor frame in which young plants are placed to acclimatise them to outdoor conditions
Companion Planting	- Different plants planted together to deter pests, e.g. onions with carrots deters carrot fly
Complete Fertiliser	- A plant food which contains all three of the primary elements (NPK) ... nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium + minor nutrients
Compost	- Applied to a growing media blend or as a result of composting material
Conifer	- A cone bearing plant with needle / scale like leaf (Deciduous or Evergreen)
Contact Weed killer	- A product that kills plants on contact
Container Grown	- A plant grown in a contained system, i.e. a pot
Contract	- A signed document setting out the works, standards or supply of goods
Cotyledon	- An embryonic leaf in seed-bearing plants, one or more of which are the first leaves to appear from a germinating seed (mono = 1 dicot = 2)
Deciduous	- To loose leaf as in the autumn and to re-grow foliage in the spring
Dormant	- Alive waiting for the right conditions for growth
Drip Irrigation	- Controlled application of water through a restricted pipe
Earthing Up	- Process of drawing up soil from spaces between rows to create ridges
Ericaceous	- A term applied to lime haters / intolerant to alkaline soils/growing media
Evaporation	- The loss of water from a surface
Evapo-Transpiration	- The combined loss of water from the surface and the plant
Evergreen	- A plant that retains its foliage in all seasons
Exotic Plants	#
Feathered Tree	- Trees with branches from ground level (measured as a height not girth)

A Horticultural Jargon Buster



Fertigation	- The application of fertilisers through irrigation
Fertile	- A soil rich in nutrients and biological life
Fertilizer- Standard	- A blend of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash
Fertiliser – Crf	- The controlled release of nutrient over a determined length of time
Field Capacity	- Water held in suspension after the soil has drained
Fleece	- Light woven material used to protect plants from frost or used as a barrier against insect pests
Foliar Feeding	- Applying liquid solutions of fertilizer to the leaves of plants
Forcing	- The processes of making a plant grow before its natural season
Frost	- The freezing and condensation of moisture in the air. Frost dates are important to know for your area
Frost Hardy	- Plants that survive winter frosts without damage
Frost Tender	- Plants will be damaged or killed by even the lightest of winter frosts
FSC	- A term applied by companies using wood from managed resources
Full Shade	- Full Shade/ deep shade and is created by mature trees, buildings or structures
Full Sun	- Six hours or more per day in the direct sun during the growing season
Furrow	- A depression in the planting area either created by spade or mechanical means
Germination	- When seeds begin to sprout leaves
Girth	- Measurement of a tree, circumference of stem 1 meter from soil level
Grafting	- To join 2 or more plants to form a single plant
Green Manure	- A crop grown specifically for digging back into the soil to add nutrients or to provide green matter and nitrogen
Ground Cover	- Term used to describe low-growing plants
Growing Habit	- A direction or shape a plant takes as it grows
Growing Point	- Area of new growth occurs
Growing Season	- The time from the last frost in spring to the first frost in autumn

A Horticultural Jargon Buster



Half Hardy	- Plants unable to survive the winter without protection
Harden Off	- The gradual acclimatisation of seedlings
Hardy	- Plants able to survive the winter without protection
Heaving	- When changes in the climate causes the soil to buckle upward, (heat)
Herbs	- Aromatic plants used for seasoning, medicinal purposes, or garnishes
Hoeing	- A method of loosening the soil at a shallow level to kill weed seedlings
Honey Dew	- The sweet and sticky syrup secreted by aphids and other sap-sucking insects
Hybrid	- A plant produced from 2 plants of a different variety
Infertile	- Soil that has no nutrients
Insect-Mesh	- Fine mesh sheet used to cover crops for pest control
Inter-Cropping	- Growing small crops in the spaces alongside larger slow growing plants
Irrigation Method	- The systemised application of water to plants
Leaching	- The loss of nutrients washed through the soil / compost
Leaf Mould	- Compost like substance formed by partially decomposed leaves
Leaky Pipe	- A porous irrigation pipe, typically used underground up to establishment
Legume	- A member of the pea family
Micro-Climate	- An area with a set of conditions different from those surrounding the area
Micro-Nutrients	- A group of nutrients that plants need for proper growth
Micro-Organisms	- Too small to be seen clearly with the naked eye
Mildew	- Types of fungi e.g. downy and powdery found on leaves
Mulch	- A layer of material placed over the ground, feeding, conserving moisture, stopping weeds germinating, keeping the soil warm or protecting from erosion
Multi-stem	- Multiple breaks close to the base providing a vase like habit (usually 3,5,7)
Neutral Soil	- This is neither acid nor alkaline; pH 6.5 - 7.5
Nursery Mark	- (collar) the soil mark left on the stem at the planting depth on the nursery

A Horticultural Jargon Buster



Nutrients	- The minerals (fertilisers) used to feed plants
Open Ground (OG)	- See bare root
Organic	- Materials that has been alive
Organic Gardening	- The method of gardening utilizing only materials derived from living things
Organic Matter	- For example rotted leaves, composted pine bark, mushroom compost
Packaging	- Box pallet - a cardboard box 100x120x100cm on a pallet for the transport of plants - Danish trolley - a wheeled transport system
Peat	- Formed by the partial decomposition of vegetable matter in a wet environment
Perennial	- Plants that live for more than two years
Ph Scale	- The pH scale ranges from 1 to 14, with 7 being the point at which soil has a neutral reaction
Pinching	- Using your thumb and forefinger to remove the tip growth of plants
Planting Out	- Transplanting plants from one place to another
Poisonous Plants	- A plant that when touched / ingested may cause a harmful reaction / irritation
Pollinator	- Insects that move from plant to plant transferring pollen
Potting Up	- Moving plants from one size of container to the next
Powdery Mildew	- Fungus creating a powder-like white to greyish-white cover on the leaf surface
Pricking Out	- Moving tiny seedlings from pots or trays into new pots
Propagator	- A system that speeds up germination
Propagation	- Techniques used to multiply plants
Raised Beds	- Planting areas that are mounded or boxed above ground level
Red Spider Mite	- Tiny, sap-sucking spider-like mites often found in hot, dry conditions
Root	- Typically underground systems that support a plant
Root Ball (RB)	- A lifted item combining root system and surrounding soil/compost
Root Barrier	- A product used to physically control/ restrict / deflect root systems

A Horticultural Jargon Buster



Root Bound	- Roots become entangled and begin to grow in circles
Root Crops	- Any vegetable where the roots are edible
Root Rot	- Roots are affected by fungus diseases, relates to poor drainage
Scale	- Sucking insects found in milder climates usually on stems
Slow Release Fert	- Generally a natural fertiliser that release nutrient over a period time
Soaker Hose	- Hoses that have hundreds of mini holes to let the water out slowly
Soil Amendment	- Anything added to the soil to improve the present situation (conditioners)
Soil Test	- A chemical test that measures the nutrients in your soil and its acidity
Standard	- A clear stem- a quarter - full standards
Systemic	- (Translocated) A product that is absorbed to provide control and can move around the plant
Tender	- A plant that is killed or damaged by low temperatures
Thinning	- Removing seedlings that are planted too closely together
Tilth	- A fine, crumbly layer of surface soil
Tired Soil	- A piece of land that has been exhausted of its nutrient value
Top Dressing	- An application of fertiliser added to the growing media to 'top up'
Topsoil	- Soil that is at the very top of the soil profile
Transpiration	- The loss of water through the pores of the leaf
Transplant	- To move from one location to another
Tree Pit Slump	- The base of the planting pit is aerated allowing settlement after planting This can cause arresting off growth / losses when planting trees
Tree Stakes	- Pealed & Pointed – variable diameter / shape Machine Rounded – consistent diameter along the length Dipped – treated with preservative, not recommended for use with plants
Waterlogging	- Where the air spaces are filled (saturated) with water
Wilt	- A collapsed plant, caused by fungal disease or lack of water
WRB	- Wire root ball - burlap/material nappy + wire 'cage' (see root ball)

A Horticultural Jargon Buster



A Horticultural Jargon Buster



A Horticultural Jargon Buster



A Horticultural Jargon Buster



A Horticultural Jargon Buster



A Horticultural Jargon Buster



A Horticultural Jargon Buster

