



Glossary of Terms

TERM	DEFINITION
Abiotic	Non-living
Biotic	Living
Carbon dioxide	A gas found in our atmosphere
Chlorophyll	Green substance in plant leaves that lets the plant use the sun's energy, carbon dioxide and water to make food.
Convection	motion in a fluid in which the warmer portions rise and the colder portions sink.
Cotyledon	The first leaves on a seedling providing the new seedling with food until it can produce its own
Dehydration	The removal of water.
Dynamic equilibrium	In this state the (average) rate at which resources (such as carbon dioxide) are consumed is balanced by the rate at which the resources are replaced.
Ecosystem	A group of living organisms that, along with their abiotic environment, form a self-regulating system through which energy and materials are transferred.
Fertilization	When the pollen grain and ovule join to form a seed
Flower	The part of the plant that makes seeds.
Fruit	The fleshy part of the plant that contains the seed
Germination	A process by which a seed changes into a seedling with leaves, stem and roots
Greenhouse	A structure enclosed (as by glass) and used for the cultivation or protection of tender plants.
Kilojoule	Measurement of energy (1000 joules)
Macronutrient	Nutrients such as carbohydrates that are broken down in the body to provide usable energy.
Micronutrient	Vitamins and minerals that play a supporting role in maintaining body functions.
Mass	The amount of matter in an object measured in grams or kilograms (pounds or ounces) using a balance.
Leaf	The plant's food-making factory
Oxygen	A gas in our atmosphere that living things need to keep their cells alive.
Photosynthesis	The way a plant makes its food using energy from sunlight, carbon dioxide from air, water, and nutrients from the soil.
Pistil	The part of the flower that receives pollen to make seeds



Pollen	Powder made by the stamen that is needed by the pistil to make seeds
Pollination	When pollen is carried from the stigma to the stamen.
Primary producer	Living things which can convert the sun's energy into food (plants).
Root	The underground part of the plant that absorbs water and nutrients, stores food, and holds the plant in the ground.
Seed	The fertilized ovule of a flowering plant.
Seedling	A very young plant grown from seed.
Solar irradiance	Amount of electromagnetic energy incident on a surface per unit time per unit area, i.e. watts per square metre
Stamen	The part of the flower that makes the pollen
Stem	The main part of a plant that holds the plant up and carries water and nutrients from the roots to the leaves and plant food from the leaves to the rest of the plant
Transpiration	The process by which green plants give off water vapor through the stomata in their leaves