

Department of biology

GENERAL BOTANY

Lab5

Stage -1-

Plant organs

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Stems

- The vegetative system includes axes or main axes that represent the stem or stems with their branches and leaves. Note that the origin of the stem is the plumule of the seed embryo.
- Leaves are borne on areas of the stem called **nodes**, while the areas between these nodes are called **internodes** and are leafless.
- Seed plants generally have distinct, clearly visible stems, so they are described as **caulescent**. The Latin word "callus" means stem, while other stems are described as **acaulescent**. A stemless plant, although it has a stem, is either subterranean or greatly reduced, such that the leaves appear clustered in a bundle at the ground level called a **rosette**. In such plants, flowers are borne on leafless flower stalks known as **scapes**, and the plant is therefore described as **scapose**, as in onions **(Allium sp.)**, **Aloe sp.**, and *Narcissus* sp.

Stems

- Since ancient times, plants have been divided based on the nature of their stems into herbs, shrubs, and trees. Herbaceous plants have soft, weak stems that live no longer than one year. These stems are either hollow, such as rice (Oryza sp.), beans, barley, and reeds, or solid, with pith tissue filling the center, such as corn, cyperus, and bamboo.
- Shrubs and trees have woody stems because their stems live year after year. Shrubs have numerous branches of similar thickness and length that emerge directly from the ground, such as pomegranate (Punica), oleander (Nerium), and rose.
- While trees have a main trunk from which branches branch out, such as mulberry (Morus) and Eucalyptus, some trees do not have trunks that branch out into branches, such as the palm genus Phoenix.



Flowering plants are divided according to their lifespan into the following

- **A. Annual plants**: These are plants that complete their life cycle from seed germination to fruit and seed formation in a single year or season, such as cucumbers, melons and beans.
- **B. Biennial plants**: These are plants that complete their life cycle in two years. In the first year or season, the root system and some basal leaves are formed. The roots store a quantity of food that the plant uses in the following season to form the stem, leaves, flowers, and fruits, and then the plant dies, such as sugar beet (*Beta* sp.)
- **C. Perennial plants**: These are plants that live for more than two years, such as palm trees, and pine.

Type of stems

1- Aerial stems : (These grow above the soil surface)

Climbers Stems

Twiners Stems



Erect stems

Ascending stems

Runner Stems

Prostrate stems



2- Subterranean Stems: (These are modified stems that grow and remain below the soil surface and take various forms)



Aerial stems undergo modifications, similar to those of terrestrial stems, and take several forms, including













Buds

- A bud is a meristematic region surrounding embryonic leaves. Buds are usually located either at the tips of stems and branches, known as (Apical buds), or in the leaf axils, where they are (Lateral or Axillary).
- In many species, additional buds are often found on either side of the axillary bud. These are called (Accessory buds), as in the case of *Prunus*, where three buds are found at the node. The central one is the (Principal bud), a leaf bud that produces a leafy branch, and on either side of it are two flower buds additional.

Buds are classified according to their structure into the following









Leaves

•Leaves are flat structures borne on the nodes of the stem. Their primary function is photosynthesis and transpiration. Leaves come in a variety of shapes and variations, more than any other plant organ. They are not always flat or always green, They are borne on aerial stems, but they can also be found on terrestrial stems or submerged in the water. Leaves attached to the stem are called cauline leaves, while those attached to the base of the stem or to the root are called basal or radical leaves.





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Compound leaves are classified according to the number of leaflets as follows





Leaf Modification







Tendrils leaf





Venus-fly trop (Dionaea)



Storage leaves



Portulaca leaves



Storage leaf



Pitcher-plant (Nepenthis)

