



What's In A Name???

SO, Where Do these Crazy Names Come from?

Taxonomic Units

- Kingdom

Division

Class

Order

Family

Genus ←

Species ←

Variety or subspecies ←

Cultivar ←

Forma

Plant Nomenclature

- Binomial System
 - Two part name for each species:
 - Generic term- always capitalized and italicized (in written work)
 - Specific epithet- always lower case and italicized (in written work)
 - Underline entire name when handwritten

Why two name system?

- Avoids confusion in common names
- International in use
- Descriptive and shows relationship to other plants



Perennial hibiscus or swamp mallow = *Hibiscus moscheutos*

Whose name is it anyway?

- Linnaeus- “Father of Taxonomy”
 - System for naming organisms
- Third portion of name indicates person whom named plant
 - i.e Linnaeus = L.
 - *Camellia japonica* (L.),
Japanese camellia



Genus (Genera- plural)

- Group of plants that are similar
- Group of plants with reproductive (flowers & fruits) similarities
- For example: Maples = Acer



maple

Acer rubrum, red maple

Acer buergerianum, trident maple and *Acer rubrum*, red maple



Photos Etsy

and

The Tree center

Species

(Species- plural or singular; sp.- singular and spp.- Plural)



- Related individuals w/in genus resemble one another; genetic variation prevalent
- Able to breed among themselves, but not with members of another species

Chionanthus virginicus, fringetree

Common species of oak (Quercus)

Quercus macrocarpa, bur oak

Quercus palustris, pin oak



Quercus rubra, red oak



Proper writing of species



Variety or subspecies



- Variation within species distinctive, but not enough to make it a new species
- Natural then propagated by humans
- Self-perpetuating

Acer saccharum subsp. *floridanum*

→ **flowery**

Examples of Variation

- Size (dwarf)
- Habit (weeping)
- Leaf color (variegation)
- Flower color or petal count
(single vs. double)



Prunus subhirtella var. pendula

Cercis canadensis var. alba

white flowering Eastern redbud



Picea glauca var. conica

Dwarf Alberta spruce



Cultivar

- Group of plants with very distinct characteristics that are retained in sexual or asexual reproduction
- Occurs naturally, then propagated
- *Most important unit in horticulture*
- Always in single quotes

Carpinus betulus 'Fastigiata', upright European
hornbeam



Cornus florida var. rubra 'Cherokee Chief'

Cherokee Chief red-flowering dogwood



Photo- Weston Nurseries

Additional important nomenclature



- Intergeneric hybrid- cross between 2 genera

For example:

X *Cupressocyparis leylandii*,
Leyland cypress

- Interspecific hybrid- controlled (or chance) hybridization between two related species

Prunus x domestica, Pluot plum

cross of *P. dor*



- Trademark

- no taxonomic validity (must use with cultivar name)
- protects discoverer
- requires royalties be paid, licensing
- All about \$\$\$\$\$

Place a ™ behind name
forever



get sole rights to that name

Place a ® behind name



name becomes a registered trademark, with the Office of Patent and Trademarks, in D.C.; expires and must be renewed