

## Orchid Terminology

aerial root	any root produced above the growing medium
bract	modified leaves on an inflorescence
cane	an elongated pseudobulb, usually used when describing Dendrobiums or Epidendrums
discolor	having two-toned leaves, such as green above and purple below
epiphyte	an air plant; A plant which grows upon another plant, for support, but does not derive any nourishment from the host plant
eye	the bud of a sympodial (many footed) orchid that will eventually develop into a new pseudobulb and flower
foliar spray	many minor nutrients and trace elements beneficial to growth are best absorbed through the stomata of an orchids leaves when mixed with water and sprayed on the plant
genus	(pl. genera) A natural grouping of closely related species
habitat	the type of place, or environment, in which a Orchid normally grows
hybrid	the result of a cross between two different species or hybrids
inflorescence	the flowering portion of a plant, including the scape
keiki	Hawaiian word referring to a baby plant produced asexually by an orchid plant, usually used when referring to Dendrobiums, Phalaenopsis or Vandaceous orchids
lithophyte	an orchid that grows on rocks
medium	the material in which an orchid is container-grown
monopodial	orchids which grow upward from a single stem producing leaves and flowers along that stem
node	a joint on a stem or pseudobulb from which a leaf or growth originates
pseudobulb	a thickened portion of the stem, resembling a bulb, of many orchids, and some bromeliads. The pseudobulb functions as a water and food storage device
raceme	an unbranched inflorescence of stalked flowers
rhizome	a root-bearing stem of sympodial orchids that progressively sends up leafy shoots
sheath	a modified leaf that encloses and protects an emerging inflorescence or leaf
species	a kind of plant that is distinct from other plants
spike	an unbranched inflorescence of unstaked flowers - a term sometimes used in place of 'inflorescence'
terrestrial	growing on the ground and supported by soil

velamen	the thick sponge-like covering of the roots of epiphytic orchids which helps prevent water loss and aids in absorption
virus	a type of infectious agent, much smaller than common micro-organisms, which affect certain kinds of orchids
zgomorphic	able to be divided into two equal parts in only one plane, such as orchid flowers

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