



# PLANT LANGUAGE

BY JOHN MASON & STAFF OF ACS DISTANCE EDUCATION



# CONTENTS

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<b>CREDITS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PART 1 PRONUNCIATION</b>	<b>4</b>
How should you pronounce plant names?	4
Pronunciation	5
Examples of pronunciation	5
<b>PART 2 PLANT NAME MEANINGS</b>	<b>6</b>
Choice, construction and spelling of names	6
Selected species and variety names and their meanings	8
Selected genera and their meanings	17
<b>PART 3 DICTIONARY OF BOTANICAL AND HORTICULTURAL TERMS</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>APPENDIX</b>	<b>47</b>
Distance learning and online courses	47
E-books by John Mason and ACS Staff include:	48
Printed books by John Mason	49
Useful contacts	50
ACS global partners	50
Social media	50

# CREDITS

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The information in this book is derived from a broad cross section of resources (research, reference materials and personal experience) from the authors and editorial assistants in the academic department of ACS Distance Education. It is, to the best of our knowledge, composed as an accurate representation of what is accepted and appropriate information about the subject, at the time of publication.

The authors fully recognise that knowledge is continually changing, and awareness in all areas of study is constantly evolving. As such, we encourage the reader to recognise that nothing they read should ever be considered to be set in stone. They should always strive to broaden their perspective and deepen their understanding of a subject, and before acting upon any information or advice, should always seek to confirm the currency of that information, and the appropriateness to the situation in which they find themselves.

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# PART 1 PRONUNCIATION

## HOW SHOULD YOU PRONOUNCE PLANT NAMES?

Plant names are based on the Latin language and pronunciation should therefore be as it would be in Latin e.g. English which has silent letters however when pronouncing words in Latin each consonant, vowel and diphthong (a sound made by combining two vowels) is pronounced separately. Pronunciation however varies from place to place and this variability is acceptable in the horticultural world. Often horticulturists in one state or country will pronounce a plant name differently to the way their colleagues pronounce it in another place.

The most important thing is to learn to write names correctly. If you can write them correctly, then you will be able to

communicate with other people in the industry, even if your pronunciation is slightly different.

Usually, pronunciation will develop according to the influences received from colleagues. If you work in a small nursery with an old nursery person, you will tend to pronounce plant names the same way as the person you work with, even if their way is 'wrong'. If you are an active member of a garden club, you will pick up the style of pronunciation which most members of that garden club use.

Pronunciation and the names (particularly common names) which you give to particular plants will be influenced by the people you mix with; and in turn, their naming and pronunciation was probably influenced by the people they worked with in the past.



*Callistemon salignus*