

SUTHERLAND SHIRE ORCHID SOCIETY

Huh, What did you say?

This is a glossary of terms that every grower should know and every novice should learn because discussions with senior growers become very awkward when you have no idea what they're talking about. Trust me I was in that situation not that long ago. So here it is to help you along.

Acid (soils)	Having a pH below 6
Aerial Growth	Young plants that develop from bulb or stem of plant also known as Keiki's
Aerial Roots	Erect adventitious roots that often collect leaf litter
Agar Solution	Formulated solution of nutrients for germinating seeds in vitro
Alkaline(soils)	Having a pH above 8
Anther	The pollen bearing part of the stamen
Apical	Flowering stem
Back Bulb	Older often leafless bulbs that may reshoot if severed from main plant
Backcross	A hybrid resulting from the crossing of an existing cross with one of its parents
Bifoliate	With two leaves
Bigeneric Hybrid	An artificial hybrid containing two related genera
Bud	An unopened flower
Column	The central fleshy part of the flower containing the sexual organs
Common Name	Name of a plant species that is not its botanical or scientific name
Cross	A less formal term for hybrid
Cultivar	A selected and often superior variety of a species or hybrid
Deciduous	The seasonal shedding of leaves which live for less than a year
Diploid	Refers to the number of chromosomes in this case 2n
Dormant	Resting or not in growth
Epiphyte	A plant that grows on trees but is not parasitic
Evergreen	Retaining leaves throughout the year
Eye	Small dormant growth from which flowers or leaves develop
Foliage	Leaves and twigs in mass
Genus	A group of related species, a taxonomic category above species
Germination	The emergence of a new plant from a seed
Grex	A specific hybrid combination
Growth	Vegetative shoot
Hybrid	A cross between two different species or hybrids
Inflorescence	The flowering stem of a plant
Intergeneric	The same as bigeneric but with more than two genera
Keiki	Hawaiian term for aerial growth
Labellum	A modified petal also known as a lip
Leaf	The plant organ that is primarily responsible for photosynthesis
Lip	More casual term for labellum

Lithophyte	A plant that grows on rocks
Mericlone	A plant derived vegetatively from tissue culture identical to its parent
Microclimate	The climate of a small area that can be affected by many things e.g. Climate
Monopodial	Having one main or primary stem producing leaves and flowers along that stem
Natural Hybrid	A rare naturally occurring hybrid between two species
Node	The part of the stem that is jointed and produces leaves or buds
Ovary	The structure directly behind the flower that develops into the seed capsule
Peloric	An abnormal formation
Petal	A floral organ often used to attract pollinators to the sexual organs of the plant
Photosynthesis	A process by which plants generate food
Pollen	The dust like material produced by the male flowering parts delivering the male nucleus to the female plant for reproduction
Pollination	The mechanism by which pollen is transferred to the stigma
Primary Hybrid	The initial hybrid between two species
Propagation	The practice of multiplying plants artificially
Pseudobulb	The thickened or bulb like stem of a symbodial plant
Raceme	The stem on which the flowers are borne
Rhizome	A specialized stem from which from which shoots and roots are produced
Root	The organ for absorption of water and nutrients it also stabilizes the plant
Seed	Organ for reproduction and spreading of plants
Seedling	A young plant raised from seed that has yet to flower
Sepal	One segment of a flower
Species	Orchids as they naturally occur in the wild
Stamen	The male part of a flower producing pollen
Stem	The organ of the plant that supports leaves and flowers
Stigma	The sticky receptive part of the column which accepts pollen
Substrate	The material in which a plant is rooted
Symbodial	A growth habit by which each stem has limited growth and new shoots develop from the base of previous ones
Synonym	A previous invalid name for a species
Terrestrial	A plant that grows in the ground
Tertaploid	A plant with double the number of normal chromosomes
Unifoliate	With one leaf
Variety	Taxonomic rank below species often used for minor differences