

## Horticultural Jargon Buster A-Z

The following list of terms is not definitive and is provided as a guide; we work in a technical industry where jargon is frequently used but can sometimes cause confusion.

We hope you find this guide useful and welcome additions to continue to grow the library for you and the benefit of others.

A	
<b>Acclimatisation</b>	Adjusting plants to different conditions than those in which they are growing
<b>Acid soil</b>	A soil with a pH lower than 7.0
<b>Accelerator</b>	A product used to speed the decomposition of organic matter
<b>Aerate</b>	Incorporate air by cultivation / spike or remove plugs to aerate a lawn
<b>Aerobic</b>	Requires oxygen to live
<b>Air pot</b>	A growing technique in a wrap round pot that results in a fibrous root system
<b>Alpine</b>	Plants that grow in an alpine climate which occurs at high elevation and above the tree line. These include perennial grasses, sedges, forbs, cushion plants, mosses, and lichens
<b>Alkaline soil</b>	A soil that has a pH level of 7.0 or more
<b>Anaerobic</b>	Organisms living or occurring when oxygen is absent
<b>Annual</b>	A plant that will complete its life cycle in one growing season
<b>Anti-transparent</b>	Applied to foliage of evergreens reduces water loss for newly planted stock




















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<b>Aquatic</b>	<p><b>Bunch</b> – Multiple stems usually weighted</p> <p><b>Deep water</b> – Roots on the bed / leaves &amp; flowers on the surface</p> <p><b>Floating</b> – Living on the surface of the water</p> <p><b>Marginal</b> – Planted to the surrounds, roots in the water crown out of the water</p>
<b>B</b>	
<b>Bamboo</b>	A woody plant with a hollow stem that's in the grass family
<b>Bare-rooted</b>	<p>Plants that have been dug out of the ground with little or no soil around the roots</p> <p><b>(1+1)</b> – Starting in the seed beds and then lined out for 1 year (plant is 2 years old)</p> <p><b>(1u1)</b> – Starting in the seed beds and lined out, the plant is undercut resulting in a heavier root system and straight plant (plant is 2 years old)</p> <p><b>(1+2)</b> – Starting in the seed beds and then lined out for 2 year making a heavier plant (plant is 3 years old)</p> <p><b>(2+1)</b> – A 2 year old plant lined out for a further year making for a heavier plant (plant is 3 years old)</p> <p><b>(1+3)</b> – A 1 year old seedling grown in seed beds and then lined out for 3 years producing a heavier plant (plant is 4 year old)</p> <p><b>(2+2)</b> – A 2 year old plant lined out for a further year, giving a stockier, bushier plant (plant is 4 years old)</p> <p><b>(C+3)</b> – A plant grown in the ground for 2 years from a container / plug / root trainer</p>
<b>Base dressing</b>	An application of fertiliser, organic matter or soil before planting
<b>Bedding</b>	A short-lived planting providing seasonal floral impact
<b>Beneficial insect</b>	Insects that will improve soil, attack harmful insects / pollinate plants
<b>Bi-annual</b>	A plant that completes its life cycle in 2 years



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<b>Biodegradable</b>	Able to breakdown by natural means
<b>Biological pest control</b>	Using living organisms, to destroy pests
<b>Blanching</b>	Excluding light to make leaves and stems tenderer
<b>Blight</b>	A fungal or bacterial disease, causing dead patches on stems or leaves
<b>Blossom end rot</b>	A rotten spot at the blossom end of tomato fruit
<b>Bolting</b>	Crops that flower / grow prematurely
<b>Breaking bud</b>	The point in time as the bud bursts through the bud scales
<b>Bulb guide</b>	<div> <div>  Flowering period (months) 2 - 3 </div> <div>  Height in cm. 0 cm </div> <div>  Bulb size (circumference in cm.) 11/12, 12/4 </div> <div>  Naturalising bulbs </div> <div>  Bulbs per m2 0 m<sup>2</sup> </div> <div>  Mowing period (months) 5 </div> <div>  Sunny location sun </div> <div>  Semi shade semi shade </div> <div>  Shady location shady </div> <div> <div>  Humus rich location humus </div> <div>  Calcareous location calcareous </div> <div>  Moist location moist </div> <div>  Bulbs suitable for pots pots </div> <div>  Organic flower bulbs organic </div> <div>  Bulbs/mixtures attracting butterflies biodivers </div> <div>  Bulbs/mixtures attracting bees biodivers </div> <div>  Fragrant flowers fragrant </div> </div> </div>
<b>Burlap</b>	Usually for the smaller items, a square of 'open' cloth tied around the base of the plant to contain the soil






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<b>C</b>	
<b>Calcicole</b>	A plant preferring an alkaline soil (pH +7.0), usually a limey soil
<b>Calcifuge</b>	A plant preferring an acidic (pH -7.0), usually a peaty or organic soil
<b>Canker</b>	A breakdown of cells from the phloem outwards
<b>Catch cropping</b>	When you sow a quick maturing crop into a vacant gap
<b>Chitting</b>	Encouraging germination in tubers by placing in a tray in a light and cool place
<b>Chlorophyll</b>	The matter (green) essential for photosynthesis
<b>Chlorosis</b>	A symptom of deficiency, usually iron, stress or disease (yellowing)
<b>Click &amp; Collect</b>	The collection of orders placed online following a given period
<b>Clay</b>	Soil particles less than 0.002mm, as a soil greater than 40%
<b>Climbers</b>	Are plants which climb trees and other hosts using a range of adaptations such as twine stems, adapted leaf petioles, suction pads, aerial roots or barbed thorns (Wall Plants)
<b>Cloche</b>	A small translucent cover structure for protecting plants from the cold and pests
<b>Club root</b>	A disease of brassicas caused by the slime mould fungus
<b>Co-co wrap</b>	A material wrapped around the root ball to prolong the planting season
<b>Cold frame</b>	An unheated outdoor frame in which young plants are placed to acclimatise them to outdoor conditions
<b>Companion planting</b>	Different plants planted together to deter pests, e.g. onions with carrots deters carrot fly
<b>Complete Fertiliser</b>	A plant food which contains all three of the primary elements (NPK) ... nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium + minor nutrients
















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Compost	Applied to a growing media blend or as a result of composting material																																																																																															
Conifer	A cone bearing plant with needle / scale like leaf (Deciduous or Evergreen)																																																																																															
Contact weed killer	A product that kills plants on contact with foliage																																																																																															
Container grown	A plant grown in a contained system, I.e. a pot																																																																																															
Container sizes	<table><tr><th colspan="5">Standard Range - House &amp; Grower Range</th></tr><tr><th>Description</th><th>Colour</th><th>Diameter (cm)</th><th>Height (cm)</th><th>Volume (ltr)</th></tr><tr><td>PC 11cm H (vol 12)</td><td></td><td>11.0</td><td>9.8</td><td>0.65</td></tr><tr><td>PC vol 13</td><td></td><td>12.0</td><td>10.5</td><td>0.8</td></tr><tr><td>C 13cm</td><td></td><td>13.0</td><td>11.0</td><td>1.0</td></tr><tr><td>C 14cm L</td><td></td><td>14.0</td><td>10.6</td><td>1.1</td></tr><tr><td>C 14cm</td><td></td><td>14.0</td><td>12.4</td><td>1.3</td></tr><tr><td>C 15cm L</td><td></td><td>15.0</td><td>10.8</td><td>1.25</td></tr><tr><td>C 15cm</td><td></td><td>15.0</td><td>13.0</td><td>1.5</td></tr><tr><td>C 17cm XL</td><td></td><td>17.0</td><td>10.4</td><td>1.65</td></tr><tr><td>C 17cm L</td><td></td><td>17.0</td><td>12.7</td><td>2.0</td></tr><tr><td>C 17cm H</td><td></td><td>17.0</td><td>15.5</td><td>2.5</td></tr><tr><td>C 19cm XL</td><td></td><td>19.0</td><td>13.5</td><td>2.5</td></tr><tr><td>C 19cm L</td><td></td><td>19.0</td><td>15.5</td><td>3.0</td></tr><tr><td>C 19cm M</td><td></td><td>19.0</td><td>17.0</td><td>3.25</td></tr><tr><td>C 19cm H</td><td></td><td>19.0</td><td>18.5</td><td>3.5</td></tr><tr><td>3.5 Litre Bucket</td><td></td><td>19.0</td><td>18.5</td><td>3.5</td></tr><tr><td>C 21cm</td><td></td><td>21.0</td><td>16.3</td><td>4.0</td></tr><tr><td>C 23cm</td><td></td><td>22.5</td><td>17.0</td><td>5.0</td></tr></table>	Standard Range - House & Grower Range					Description	Colour	Diameter (cm)	Height (cm)	Volume (ltr)	PC 11cm H (vol 12)		11.0	9.8	0.65	PC vol 13		12.0	10.5	0.8	C 13cm		13.0	11.0	1.0	C 14cm L		14.0	10.6	1.1	C 14cm		14.0	12.4	1.3	C 15cm L		15.0	10.8	1.25	C 15cm		15.0	13.0	1.5	C 17cm XL		17.0	10.4	1.65	C 17cm L		17.0	12.7	2.0	C 17cm H		17.0	15.5	2.5	C 19cm XL		19.0	13.5	2.5	C 19cm L	 	19.0	15.5	3.0	C 19cm M	 	19.0	17.0	3.25	C 19cm H		19.0	18.5	3.5	3.5 Litre Bucket		19.0	18.5	3.5	C 21cm		21.0	16.3	4.0	C 23cm		22.5	17.0	5.0
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	Standard Range				
	Colour	Volume (ltr)	Diameter (mm)	Height (mm)	Pots Per Danish Shelf
		1.0	130	107	40
		1.5	150	121	33
		2.0	163	131	30
		3.0	180	149	22
		4.0	210	165	17
		5.0	230	174	14
		7.5	258	204	10
		10.0	283	224	9
		15.0	320	257	7
		20.0	375	257	5
	Deep (Climber Pots)				
	Colour	Volume (ltr)	Diameter (mm)	Height (mm)	Pots Per Danish Shelf
		2.0	143	150	36
		3.0	168	188	30
		4.0	186	201	21
<b>Containerised</b>	Typically root balled plants in containers that, if handled with care, can be planted throughout the year				
<b>Contract</b>	A signed document setting out the works, standards or supply of goods, for example, contract growing where a large quantity of plants are grown to order for a customer				
<b>Corm</b>	a rounded underground storage organ consisting of a swollen stem base covered with scale leaves				
<b>Cotyledon</b>	An embryonic leaf in seed-bearing plants, one or more of which are the first leaves to appear from a germinating seed (mono =1 dicot = 2)				



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<b>Country of origin</b>	The country where the plant has been growing for the latter half of the most recent growing season
<b>Cultivar</b>	Or 'cultivated variety'. A cultivar is selected and cultivated; some cultivars originate as sports or mutations on plants. Other cultivars could be hybrids of two plants, propagation by seed producing something different from the parent plant
<b>D</b>	
<b>Deciduous</b>	To lose leaf as in the autumn and to re-grow foliage in the spring
<b>Dormant</b>	Alive, but waiting for the right seasonal conditions for growth
<b>Drip irrigation</b>	Controlled application of water through a restricted pipe
<b>E</b>	
<b>Earthing up</b>	Process of drawing up soil from spaces between rows to create ridges
<b>Ericaceous</b>	A term applied to lime haters / intolerant to alkaline soils / growing media
<b>Evaporation</b>	The loss of water from a surface
<b>Evapo-transpiration</b>	The combined loss of water from the surface and the plant
<b>Evergreen</b>	A plant that retains its foliage in all seasons
<b>Exotic plants</b>	Typically, subtropical or tropical species
<b>F</b>	
<b>Feathered tree</b>	Trees with branches from ground level (measured as a height not girth)
<b>Fern</b>	A flowerless spore-producing plant with leaf-like fronds
<b>Fertigation</b>	The application of fertilisers through irrigation
<b>Fertile</b>	A soil rich in nutrients and biological life



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<b>Fertilizer – Standard</b>	A blend of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash
<b>Fertiliser – Crf</b>	The controlled release of nutrient over a determined length of time
<b>Field capacity</b>	Water held in suspension after the soil has drained
<b>Fleece</b>	Light woven material used to protect plants from frost or used as a barrier against insect pests
<b>Foliar feeding</b>	Applying liquid solutions of fertilizer to the leaves of plants
<b>Forcing</b>	The processes of making a plant grow before its natural season
<b>Frost</b>	The freezing and condensation of moisture in the air. Frost dates are important to know for your area
<b>Frost hardy</b>	Plants that survive winter frosts without damage
<b>Frost tender</b>	Plants will be damaged or killed by even the lightest of winter frosts
<b>Fruit</b>	A generic term we apply to a group of seed-bearing plants at are edible formed from the ovary after flowering
<b>FSC</b>	A term applied by companies using wood from managed resources
<b>Full shade</b>	Full Shade / deep shade and is created by mature trees, buildings or structures
<b>Full sun</b>	Six hours or more per day in the direct sun during the growing season
<b>Furrow</b>	A depression in the planting area either created by spade or mechanical means
<b>G</b>	
<b>Genus</b>	Is a generic term used to classify more than one species of plant that are closely related in characteristics





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<b>Germination</b>	When seeds begin to sprout leaves
<b>Girth</b>	Measurement of a tree, circumference of stem 1 meter from soil level
<b>Grafting</b>	To join 2 or more plants to form a single plant
<b>Grasses</b>	Monocotyledons, usually herbaceous with narrow leaves growing from the base. They include the 'true grasses', as well as the sedges and rushes
<b>Green manure</b>	A crop grown specifically for digging back into the soil to add nutrients or to provide green matter and nitrogen
<b>Ground cover</b>	Term used to describe low-growing plants
<b>Growing habit</b>	A direction or shape a plant takes as it grows
<b>Growing point</b>	Area of new growth occurs
<b>Growing season</b>	The time from the last frost in spring to the first frost in autumn
<b>H</b>	
<b>Half hardy</b>	Plants unable to survive the winter without protection
<b>Harden off</b>	The gradual acclimatisation of seedlings
<b>Hardy</b>	Plants able to survive the winter without protection
<b>Heaving</b>	When changes in the climate causes the soil to buckle upward, (heat)
<b>Hedge</b>	A row of shrubs or small trees that are planted close to each other in order to form a boundary or something that provides protection, screening or defence
<b>Herbaceous</b>	Plants that have non-woody stems. Their above ground growth largely or totally dies back in winter, but they have underground parts (roots, bulbs, etc.) that survive and re-grow

<b>Herbs</b>	Aromatic plants used for seasoning, medicinal purposes, or garnishes
<b>Hoeing</b>	A method of loosening the soil at a shallow level to kill weed seedlings
<b>Honey dew</b>	The sweet and sticky syrup secreted by aphids and other sap-sucking insects
<b>Hybrid</b>	A plant produced from 2 plants of a different variety
<b>I</b>	
<b>Infertile</b>	Soil that has no nutrients
<b>Insect-mesh</b>	Fine mesh sheet used to cover crops for pest control
<b>Inter-cropping</b>	Growing small crops in the spaces alongside larger slow growing plants
<b>Irrigation method</b>	The systemised application of water to plants
<b>L</b>	
<b>Leaching</b>	The loss of nutrients washed through the soil / compost
<b>Leaf mould</b>	Compost-like substance formed by partially decomposed leaves
<b>Leaky pipe</b>	A porous irrigation pipe, typically used underground up to establishment
<b>Legume</b>	A member of the pea family
<b>Lightly rooted</b>	Generally applied to plants that have good top growth but a light root system that, if handled with care, can be planted
<b>M</b>	
<b>Micro-climate</b>	An area with a set of conditions different from those surrounding the area
<b>Micro-nutrients</b>	A group of nutrients that plants need for proper growth



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<b>Micro-organisms</b>	Too small to be seen clearly with the naked eye
<b>Mildew</b>	Types of fungi e.g. downy and powdery found on leaves
<b>Mulch</b>	A layer of material placed over the ground, feeding, conserving moisture, stopping weeds germinating, keeping the soil warm or protecting from erosion
<b>Multi-stem</b>	Multiple breaks close to the base providing a vase like habit (usually 3,5,7)
<b>N</b>	
<b>Nets</b>	Typically, smaller items using an elasticated net to contain the root system
<b>Neutral soil</b>	This is neither acid nor alkaline; pH 6.5 - 7.5
<b>Nursery mark or line</b>	(Collar) the soil mark left on the stem at the planting depth on the nursery
<b>Nutrients</b>	The minerals (fertilisers) used to feed plants
<b>O</b>	
<b>Open ground (OG)</b>	See bare root
<b>Organic</b>	Materials that have been alive
<b>Organic gardening</b>	The method of gardening utilising only materials derived from living things
<b>Organic matter</b>	For example, rotted leaves, composted pine bark, mushroom compost
<b>Origin</b>	'The place in which indigenous plants are grown or the place from which non-indigenous plants were originally introduced'



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P	
<b>Packaging</b>	<p><b>Box pallet</b> – a cardboard box 100x120x100cm on a pallet for the transport of plants</p> <p><b>Danish trolley</b> – a wheeled transport system</p>
<b>Peat</b>	Formed by the partial decomposition of vegetable matter in a wet environment
<b>Perennial</b>	Plants that live for more than two years
<b>Ph scale</b>	The pH scale ranges from 1 to 14, with 7 being the point at which soil has a neutral reaction
<b>Pinching</b>	Using your thumb and forefinger to remove the tip growth of plants
<b>Planting out</b>	Transplanting plants from one place to another
<b>Poisonous plants</b>	A plant that when touched / ingested may cause a harmful reaction / irritation
<b>Pollinator</b>	Insects, birds or small mammals that move from plant to plant transferring pollen
<b>Potting up</b>	Moving plants from one size of container to the next
<b>Powdery mildew</b>	Fungus creating a powder-like white to greyish-white cover on the leaf surface
<b>Pricking out</b>	Moving tiny seedlings from pots or trays into new pots
<b>Propagator</b>	A system that speeds up germination
<b>Propagation</b>	Techniques used to multiply plants
<b>Provenance</b>	The timeline of where any plant, whether indigenous or non-indigenous, has been growing



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R	
<b>Raised beds</b>	Planting areas that are mounded or boxed above ground level
<b>Red spider mite</b>	Tiny, sap-sucking spider-like mites often found in hot, dry conditions
<b>Root</b>	Typically, underground systems that anchor, feed and support a plant
<b>Root ball (RB)</b>	A lifted item with the root system and surrounding soil / compost within a wire & hessian ball
<b>Root barrier</b>	A product used to physically control / restrict / deflect root systems
<b>Root bound</b>	Roots become entangled and begin to grow in circles
<b>Root crops</b>	Any vegetable where the roots are edible
<b>Root rot</b>	Roots are affected by fungus diseases, relates to poor drainage
S	
<b>Scale</b>	Sucking insects found in milder climates usually on stems
<b>Slow-release fertiliser</b>	Generally, a natural fertiliser that releases nutrient over a period of time
<b>Soaker hose</b>	Hoses that have hundreds of mini holes to let the water out slowly
<b>Soil amendment</b>	Anything added to the soil to improve the present situation (conditioners)
<b>Soil test</b>	A chemical test that measures the nutrients in your soil and its acidity
<b>Species</b>	A group of plants, smaller than a genus, that are similar and belong together, or have some shared quality
<b>Standard</b>	A tree with a single clear stem

Systemic	(Translocated) A product that is absorbed to provide control and can move around the plant																																																																														
T																																																																															
Tender	A plant that is killed or damaged by low temperatures																																																																														
Thinning	Removing seedlings that are planted too closely together																																																																														
Tilth	A fine, crumbly layer of surface soil																																																																														
Tired soil	A piece of land that has been exhausted of its nutrient value																																																																														
Top dressing	An application of fertiliser added to the growing media to ‘top up’																																																																														
Topsoil	Soil that is at the very top of the soil profile																																																																														
Topiary	The horticultural practice of training perennial plants by clipping the foliage and twigs of trees to maintain clearly defined shapes, whether geometric or fanciful shapes																																																																														
Transpiration	The loss of water through the pores of the leaf																																																																														
Transplant	To move from one location to another																																																																														
Tree pit slump	When the base of the planting pit is aerated allowing settlement after planting. This can cause arresting of growth / losses when planting trees																																																																														
Tree sizes	<p>The table below provides a guide to the terminology, estimated root ball size and weight. The weight guide is subject to the nursery soil type and water content. The height is a guide; different genera &amp; species will have variable growth rates</p> <table><tr><th colspan="6">Tree Guide</th></tr><tr><th>Girth</th><th>Abbreviation</th><th>Type</th><th>Rootball Sizes</th><th>Weights</th><th>Height</th></tr><tr><td>4-6cm</td><td>ELS</td><td>Extra Light Standard</td><td>40x40cm</td><td>25kg</td><td>2m</td></tr><tr><td>6-8cm</td><td>LS</td><td>Light Standard</td><td>40x40cm</td><td>35kg</td><td>2.0-2.5m</td></tr><tr><td>8-10cm</td><td>S</td><td>Standard</td><td>40x40cm</td><td>50kg</td><td>2.5-3.0m</td></tr><tr><td>10-12cm</td><td>SS</td><td>Select Standard</td><td>40x40cm</td><td>60kg</td><td>3.0-3.5m</td></tr><tr><td>12-14cm</td><td>HS</td><td>Heavy Standard</td><td>60x60cm</td><td>85kg</td><td>3.0-3.5m</td></tr><tr><td>14-16cm</td><td>EHS</td><td>Extra Heavy Standard</td><td>60x60cm</td><td>85kg</td><td>3.5-4.0m</td></tr><tr><td>16-18cm</td><td>EHS</td><td>Extra Heavy Standard</td><td>60x60cm</td><td>115kg</td><td>4.0-4.5m</td></tr><tr><td>18-20cm</td><td>EHS</td><td>Extra Heavy Standard</td><td>60x60cm</td><td>135kg</td><td>4.0-5.0m</td></tr><tr><td>20-25cm</td><td>SM</td><td>Semi Mature</td><td>70x60cm</td><td>200kg</td><td>4.5-5.5m</td></tr><tr><td>25-30cm</td><td>SM</td><td>Semi Mature</td><td>80x60cm</td><td>300kg</td><td>5.0-6.0m</td></tr><tr><td>30-35cm</td><td>SM</td><td>Semi Mature</td><td>90x60cm</td><td>400kg</td><td>5.5-6.5m</td></tr></table>	Tree Guide						Girth	Abbreviation	Type	Rootball Sizes	Weights	Height	4-6cm	ELS	Extra Light Standard	40x40cm	25kg	2m	6-8cm	LS	Light Standard	40x40cm	35kg	2.0-2.5m	8-10cm	S	Standard	40x40cm	50kg	2.5-3.0m	10-12cm	SS	Select Standard	40x40cm	60kg	3.0-3.5m	12-14cm	HS	Heavy Standard	60x60cm	85kg	3.0-3.5m	14-16cm	EHS	Extra Heavy Standard	60x60cm	85kg	3.5-4.0m	16-18cm	EHS	Extra Heavy Standard	60x60cm	115kg	4.0-4.5m	18-20cm	EHS	Extra Heavy Standard	60x60cm	135kg	4.0-5.0m	20-25cm	SM	Semi Mature	70x60cm	200kg	4.5-5.5m	25-30cm	SM	Semi Mature	80x60cm	300kg	5.0-6.0m	30-35cm	SM	Semi Mature	90x60cm	400kg	5.5-6.5m
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<b>Tree stakes</b>	<p><b>Pealed &amp; pointed</b> – variable diameter / shape</p> <p><b>Machine rounded</b> – Consistent diameter along the length</p> <p><b>Dipped</b> – Treated with preservative, not recommended for use with plants</p>
<b>Trimmed</b>	A term applied to plants that have been trimmed in the container and are in the process for re-flushing
<b>Tuber</b>	A thickened underground part of a stem or rhizome serving as a food reserve bearing buds from which new plants arise
<b>V</b>	
<b>Variety</b>	A cultivar is selected and cultivated; some cultivars originate as sports or mutations on plants. Other cultivars could be hybrids of two plants, propagation by seed producing something different from the parent plant
<b>W</b>	
<b>Waterlogging</b>	Where the air spaces within soil are filled (saturated) with water
<b>Wilt</b>	A collapsed plant, caused by fungal disease or lack of water
<b>Wire</b>	Used for larger plants to contain the heavier root ball comprising of material and a wire basket tied around the base of the plant. These are usually mild steel and will rot away
<b>Wire root ball (WRB)</b>	Burlap / material nappy + wire 'cage' (see root ball)



## Notes