



**MASTER GARDENER**  
**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**EXTENSION**

CMG GardenNotes #155

# Homework: Botany

Answer the following questions based on content from the online class.

1. Why is it important to use scientific names for plants rather than just common names?  
Plants may go by multiple common names and various plants may share the same common name. So common name alone may not correctly identify the plant. The scientific name is unique (in spelling but not pronunciation) for a plant, worldwide.
2. Why is it important for you as a Colorado Master Gardener to understand the importance of plant families?  
Plant families share comparable cultural requirements and similar pest problems. As a CMG, plant families provides an excellent starting point for researching possible problems and solutions.
3. Why is winter watering important in Colorado?  
Dry air, low precipitation, little soil moisture, and fluctuating temperatures are characteristics of fall and winter in many areas of Colorado. Often there is little or no snow cover to provide soil adequate moisture from October through March. Trees, shrubs, perennials and lawns under these conditions may be damaged if they do not receive supplemental water.
4. How can a late spring frost or freeze affect plant growth and development?  
A late spring frost or freeze can damage or kill plants or plant tissue (such as leaf buds), depending on temperatures and the plant involved. Tender plants can be killed outright. Hardy plants will expend additional energy to re-leaf. This can delay the normal time line of plant growth by a couple of weeks. A late spring frost or freeze can eliminate fruit production if flowers or buds are killed.
5. What resources would you utilize to assist with plant ID?  
Answers will vary.  
May include: dichotomous plant keys; field guides; online research-based resources, and local plant id apps (be careful using picture-identification apps): iNaturalist, CSU's Woody Plant ID, Colorado Wildflowers, LeafSnap.com (Smithsonian), University of Missouri Weed ID, etc.

**BONUS QUESTION:** A client wants to plant drought-tolerant, deer-resistant perennials in their landscape which has a full sun exposure. They've heard about Plant Select and would like to use these if possible. Utilize this website: <https://plantselect.org/?action=plants> to find 2-3 plants that might meet their needs. *What did you find and what additional information would you need from the client to help them make a right plant, right place decision?*

Responses will vary based on search techniques and selected plants; 77 plants meet this criteria using the Plant Select Plant Finder tool.

Additional information that would be helpful? **Plant Type** (tree, shrub, flower, etc.; **Mature plant size** (height and width); **bloom time** or **color preferences**.