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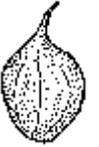
# Midwestern Wetland Flora

## *Illustrated Glossary of Floral Terms*

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**Achene**

A one-seeded, dry, indehiscent fruit with the seed coat not attached to the mature ovary wall.

**Alternate**

In reference to leaves: occurring at different levels successively on opposite sides of stem.

**Annual**

Living only for one year.

**Auricle**

An ear-shaped appendage to a leaf or stipule.

**Awn**

A bristle-like process.

**Berry**

A fruit with the seeds surrounded only by fleshy material.

**Biennial**

Living for two years.

**Bract**

An accessory structure at the base of some flowers, usually appearing leaflike.

**Bracteole**

A secondary bract.

**Bristle**

A stiff hair.

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**Capsule**

A dry, dehiscent fruit splitting into 3 or more parts.

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**Ciliate**

Bearing marginal hairs.

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**Clasping**

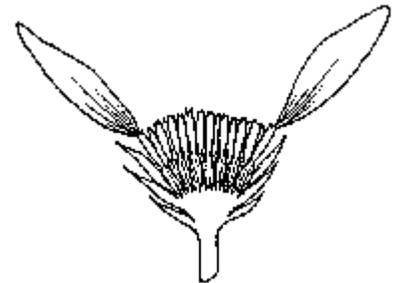
Said of leaves that partially encircle the stem at the base.

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**Composite**

Referring to an inflorescence that is made up of many tiny florets crowded together on a receptacle.

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**Corm**

An enlarged, solid, rounded, underground stem, which is covered with a few thin scales or leaves.

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**Corolla**

All the petals of a flower.

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**Cyme**

A type of inflorescence in which the central flowers open first.

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**Dehiscent**

Splitting at maturity.

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**Drupe**

A fruit with the seed surrounded by a hard, dry covering which, in turn, is surrounded by fleshy material.

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**Ellipsoid**

Referring to a solid object that is broadest at the middle, gradually tapering to both ends.

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**Elliptic**

Broadest at the middle, gradually tapering to both ends.

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**Fibrous**

Referring to a cluster of slender roots, all with the same diameter.

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**Filament**

The stalk of a stamen.

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**Follicle**

A dry, dehiscent fruit that splits along one side at maturity.

**Glaucous**

Having a bluish appearance.

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**Glume**

A sterile scale found in grasses

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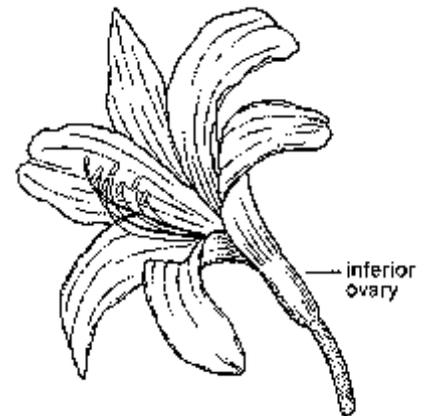
**Indehiscent**

Not splitting open at maturity.

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**Inferior**

Referring to the position of the ovary when it is below the point of attachment of the sepals and petals.

**Inflorescence**

A cluster of flowers.

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**Lanceolate**

Lance-shaped; broadest near the base, gradually tapering to the narrower apex.



**Lanceoloid**

Referring to a solid object that is broadest near the base, gradually tapering to the narrower apex.

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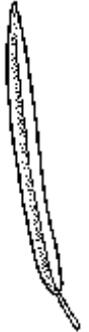
**Lemma**

A fertile scale found in grasses.

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**Linear**

Elongated and uniform in width throughout.

**Mucro**

A sharp point at termination of an organ or other structure.

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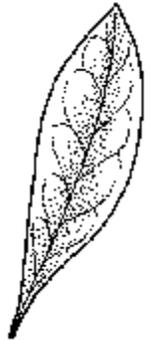
**Nutlet**

A small nut.

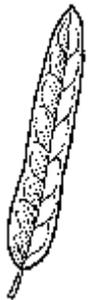
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**Oblanceolate**

Reverse lance-shaped; broadest at the apex, gradually tapering to the narrower base.

**Oblong**

Broadest at the middle, and tapering to both ends, but broader than elliptic.

**Oblongoid**

Referring to a solid object that, in side view, is nearly the same width throughout.

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**Obovate**

Broadly rounded at the apex, becoming narrowed below.



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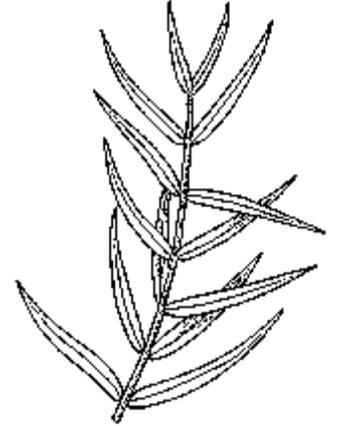
**Obovoid**

Referring to a solid object that is broadly rounded at the apex, becoming narrowed below.

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**Opposite**

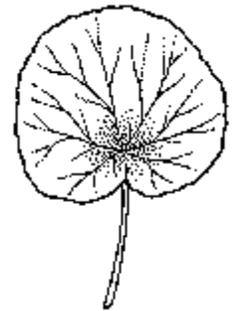
In reference to leaves: forming a pair opposite each other on the stem.



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**Orbicular**

Round.



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**Ovary**

That part of the pistil that contains the ovules.

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**Ovate**

Broadly rounded at the base, becoming narrowed above; broader than lanceolate.



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**Ovoid**

Referring to a solid object that is broadly rounded at the base, becoming narrowed above.

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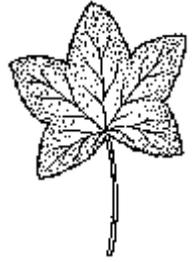
**Ovule**

Immature seed.

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**Palmate**

Divided radiately, like the fingers of a hand.

**Panicle**

An arrangement of flowers consisting of several racemes.

**Perennial**

Living for 3 or more years.

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**Perianth**

All the sepals and petals of a flower.

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**Perigynium**

A sac-like structure enclosing the pistil in Carex.

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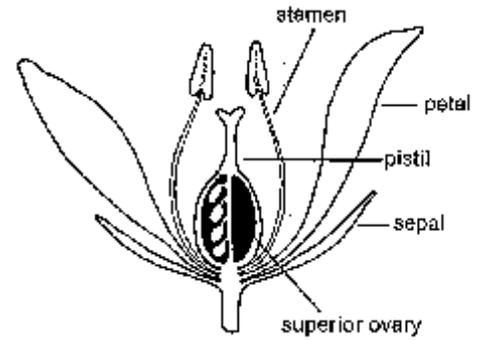
**Pinnate**

Divided once along an elongated axis into distinct segments.



**Pistil**

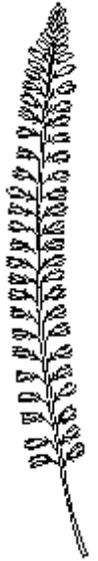
The ovule-producing part of the flower.

**Prostrate**

Lying flat on the ground.

**Raceme**

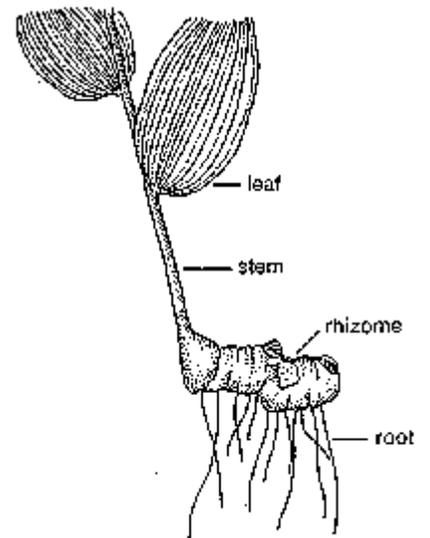
A grouping of flowers along an elongated axis where each flower has its own stalk.

**Receptacle**

That part of the flower to which the sepals, petals, stamens, and pistils are usually attached.

**Rhizome**

An underground, horizontal stem.



**Samara**

An indehiscent winged fruit.



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**Scale**

A tiny, leaflike structure; the structure that subtends each flower in a grass or sedge.

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**Spadix**

A fleshy axis in which flowers are embedded.

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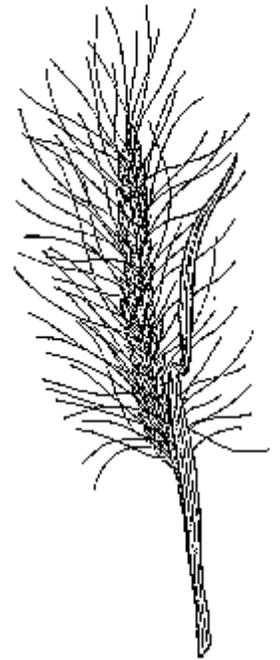
**Spathe**

A large bract subtending or sometimes enclosing a cluster of flowers.

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**Spike**

A grouping of flowers along an elongated axis where each flower lacks a stalk.



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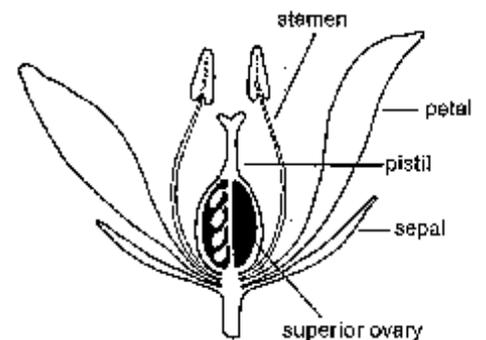
**Spikelet**

A small spike.

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**Stamen**

The pollen-producing organ of a flower.



**Stigma**

The terminal part of a pistil.

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**Stipule**

A leaflike outgrowth at the base of a leaf stalk.

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**Stolon**

A horizontal stem lying on the surface of the soil.

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**Style**

That part of the pistil between the ovary and the stigma.

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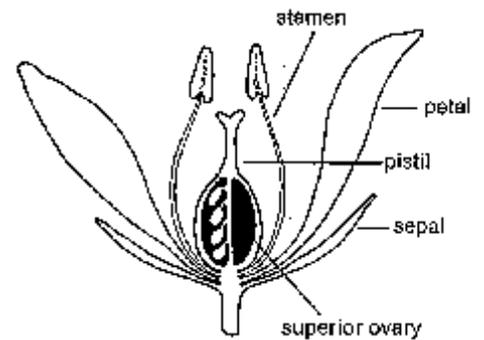
**Succulent**

Fleshy.

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**Superior**

Referring to the position of the ovary when it is above the point of attachment of sepals, petals, stamens, and pistils.

**Terete**

Nearly cylindrical in section.

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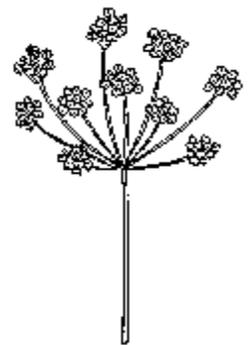
**Tubercle**

A wart-like process.

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**Umbel**

A cluster of flowers in which the flower stalks arise from the same level.

**Valve**

The wing of the fruit in Rumex.

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## Whorl

The arrangement of 3 or more structures at a point on the stem.



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