



**JOHNSONS**  
**OF WHIXLEY**  
PROFESSIONAL NURSERYMEN

## A glossary of horticultural terms

### A

**acerifolius** – leaves like those of maples

**acicularis** – with small needles

**acidus** – acid

**aconitifolius** – aconite-like leaves

**aculeatus** – prickly

**acuminatus** – acuminate

**acutifolius** – with acute leaves, acutifoliate

**acutilobus** – acutely lobed, acutilobe

**acutissimus** – very acuminate

**adenogynum** – glandular carpel

**adenophorus** – bearing glands

**adpressus** – appressed

**adstringens** – drawing together

**affinis** – related (to another species) having an affinity (e.g. *Cotoneaster affinis*)

**aggregatus** – clustered (aggregated)

**agnus-castus** – chaste

**ailantifolius** – ailanthus – leafed

**alatus (um) (a)** – winged (e.g. *Euonymus alatus*)

**albidus** – whitish

**albiflorus** – white flowers

**alba (us) (um)** – white (e.g. *Populus alba*)

**alnifolius** – with leaves like alders

**alpestris, alpinus (a) (um)** – growing in the Alps, or of the Alps (e.g. *Daphne alpina*)

**altaclarensis** – from High Church, England

**alternifolius** – alternate leaves

**altissimus** – very high

**amabilis** – sweet, lovely (e.g. *Kolkwitzia amabilis*)

**ambiguum (us) (a)** – changeable  
(e.g. *Ribes ambiguum*)

**amblyanthus** – dull flowers

**americanus** – from America

**amoena (us) (um)** – charming, pleasing  
(e.g. *Lonicera amoena*)

**andreasus** – male

**adrosaemum** – sap coloured like human blood

**anglicus** – English

**angulatus** – angled

**angustifolia (um) (us)** – narrow-leafed,  
(e.g. *Lavandula angustifolia*)

**anomalus** – abnormal, irregular

**anthopogon** – flowers with beards

**apiculatus** – slender, pointed tips, apiculate

**aquaticus (a) (um)** – of water or growing by water (e.g. *Nyssa aquatica*)

**aquifolius** – needle- leafed

**arborescens** – tree-like

**arboreum (us) (a)** – tree-like  
(e.g. *Rhododendron arboreum*)

**arbusculus** – like small trees

**arbutifolius** – arbutus-leafed

**argentea (us) (um)** – silvery (e.g. *Cortaderia argentea*)

**arguta (um) (us)** – sharp (e.g. Spiraea x arguta)

**argyrocalyx** – silvery calyx

**argyrophyllus** – silvery-leaved

**aromatica (us) (um)** – spicy, aromatic

(e.g. Laurelia aromatica)

**arvense (is)** – of fields or cultivated land

(e.g. Rosa arvensis)

**aspera** – raw, sharp

**atlantica (um)(us)** – of the Atlas Mountains

(N. Africa) (e.g. Cedrus atlantica)

**atropurpureus** – dark purple

**atrosanguineus** – dark blood-red

**atrovirens** – dark green

**aucuparius** – used for catching birds

**aurantiacus (um) (a)** – orange

(e.g. Mimulus aurantiacus)

**aurea (us) (um)** – golden yellow

(e.g. Salvia aurea)

**auritus** – has ears

**australis** – from the south (e.g. Cordyline

australis)

**autumnalis** – autumnal

**avium** – of birds, eaten by birds

**axillaris** – axillary

**azaleiflorus** – azalea-like flowers

## B

**baccatus** – has berries

**balsamifera** – producing balsam

**bambusarum** – like bamboo

**bella (um) (us)** – pretty (e.g. Spiraea bella)

**betulifolius** – leaves like birches, birch-leaved

**betulus** – like birches

**biandus** – charming

**bicolor** – two-coloured/toned

(e.g. Picea bicolor)

**biflorus** – two-flowered

**borealis** – from the north

(e.g. Linnaea borealis)

**brachybotrys** – short racemes

**brachypodus** – short petioles

**buddleifolium** – buddleia-leaved, leaves like a

Buddleia

**buxifolius** – buxus-leaved, leaves like a Buxus

(Box)

## C

**calendulaccus** – marigold-like

**californicum (us) (a)** – of California

**calocarpus** – with pretty fruits

**calophytum** – pretty plant

**calycinus** – like a calyx

**calyculatus** – with a small calyx

**campanulatum (us) (a)** – bell-shaped

(e.g. Rhododendron campanulatum)

**campestris, campestre** – of plains or flat areas

(e.g. Acer campestre)

**canadensis** – from Canada

**candicans** – turning white

**candidissimus** – bright white

**candidus** – white, pure white

**canescens** – turning white grey, greying

**canus** – whitish, white-grey

**capense (is)** – of the Cape (S. Africa)

(e.g. Phytolacca capensis)

**capitatus** – headed

**capreus** – providing fodder for goats

**caprifolius** – leaves like honeysuckle

**carmineus** – carmine

**carnea (us) (um)** – flesh-coloured

(e.g. Aesculus x carnea)

**carpinifolius** – with leaves like hornbeams

**catharticus** – having a laxative effect

**centifolius** – hundred leaves

**cerasifera** – bearing cherries  
**cerasiformis** – cherry shaped  
**cerasus** – cherry  
**cernuus** – bent over  
**chamaebuxus** – like a dwarf boxwood  
**chamaecistus** – like a small cistus  
**chamaecyparissus** – like Chamaecyparis  
(False Cypress)  
**chinensis** – Chinese  
**chryseum** – golden  
**cinerea (us) (um)** – ash-grey  
(e.g. Erica cinerea)  
**cinnabarinus** – vermilion  
**circinatus** – circular  
**citriodora (um) (us)** – lemon-scented  
(e.g. Lippia citriodora)  
**clandonensis** – with twigs  
**cneorum** – grows on mountain slopes  
**coccinea (us) (um)** – scarlet  
(e.g. Pyracantha coccinea)  
**cochleatus** – spoon-shaped, cochleare  
**coerulescens** – bluish  
**coggygia** – specific name of the Smoke Tree  
**columnaris** – columnar  
**communis** – common  
(e.g. Juniperus communis)  
**compactus** – dense  
**concinnus** – dainty  
**concolor** – of the same colour  
(e.g. Abies concolor)  
**concordius** – harmonious  
**congestus** – congested  
**conspicuus** – conspicuous  
**contortus** – contorted  
**cordatus** – cordate  
**coriacea (um) (us)** – coriaceous, leathery

(e.g. Holboellia coriacea)

**corifolius** – leathery leaves  
**cornutus** – with horns  
**coronarius** – wreath-like  
**corylifolius** – leaves like Hazel  
**crataegifolius** – leaves like Hawthorn  
**crispus** – wrinkled  
**crus-galli** – Cockspur Thorn  
**cupressoides** – like a Cypress  
**cupreus** – copper-tone

## D

**daphnoides** – like Mezereon  
**dasycarpus** – having raw fruits  
**decidua (um) (us)** – deciduous, dropping  
its leaves (e.g. Larix decidua)  
**decorus** – pretty, majestic  
**decumbens** – bent down  
**deflexicalyx** – downward calyx  
**delicatus** – delicious  
**dentatus** – dentate  
**depressus** – depressed  
**discolor** – two coloured (e.g. Sorbus discolor)  
**dissectus** – finely slit, dissected  
**divaricatus** – unwieldy, extended  
**diversifolius** – with various leaves  
**dulcis** – sweet (e.g. Prunus dulcis)

## E

**edulis** – edible (e.g. Passiflora edulis)  
**elaegnos** – ancient name for Elaeagnus  
**elaegrifolius** – with leaves like Elaeagnus  
**elatus** – lofty, sublime  
**elegans** – fine, delicate  
**elegantissimus** – very delicate  
**elongatus** – elongated  
**erectus** – upright  
**erythrociadus** – red twigs

**euchlorus** – pretty colours

**europaeus (um) (a)** – European

(e.g. *Euonymus europaeus*)

**excelsior** – more lofty, sublime

## F

**falcatus** – sickle shaped

**fastigiata (um) (us)** – branches growing

pointed, erect (e.g. *Taxus fastigiata*)

**ferox** – with many thorns

**ferrugineum (us) (a)** – rust coloured

(e.g. *Rhododendron ferrugineum*)

**fertilis** – fertile

**filamentosus** – filamented, having filaments

**filicifolius** – leaves like ferns

**flavescens** – turning yellow

**flavirameus** – with yellow twigs

**flavum (us) (a)** – pale yellow

(e.g. *Rhododendron flavum*)

**floccosus** – flakey

**floribunda (us) (um)** – having many flowers,

free-flowering (e.g. *Dipelta floribunda*)

**florida (us) (um)** – having many flowers,

floriferous

(e.g. *Weigela florida* ‘Foliis Purpureis’)

**foetidum (us) (a)** – strong smelling,

unpleasant (e.g. *Viburnum foetidum*)

**formosa (us) (um)** – pretty/handsome

(e.g. *Leycesteria formosa*)

**fragilis** – fragile

**fragrans** – fragrant (e.g. *Viburnum fragrans*)

**fragrantissima (um) (us)** – most fragrant

(e.g. *Lonicera fragrantissima*)

**frangula** – fragile

**fraxineum** – like an Ash

**fraxinifolius** – with leaves like the Ash

**frondosus** – having foliage

**fruticosum (us) (a)** – bearing fruit

## G

**glabra, (um)(us)** – not hairy,

(e.g. *Elaeagnus glabra*)

**glauca (us) (um)** – blue-green or sea-green

(e.g. *Cedrus glauca*)

**globosus** – roundish

**glutinosus** – glutinous, sticky

**gracilis** – slender

**grandiflorum (us) (a)** – having large flowers

(e.g. *Viburnum grandiflorum*)

**grandifolius** – having large leaves

**graveolens** – smelling unpleasant

(e.g. *Ruta graveolens*)

**griseus** – grey

## H

**harryanum (us) (a)** – after Sir Harry Veitch

(e.g. *Viburnum harryanum*)

**helix** – twining

**henryana (um) (us)** – after Dr. Augustine

Henry (e.g. *Parthenocissus henryana*)

**heterophyllus (um) (a)** – variable leafed

(e.g. *Osmanthus heterophyllus*)

**himalaicus (um) (a)** – of the Himalayas

(e.g. *Stachyurus himalaicus*)

**hippocastanum** – Horse Chesnut

**hirsutum (us) (a)** – hairy

(e.g. *Vaccinium hirsutum*)

**hispanica (um) (us)** – of Spain

(e.g. *Genista hispanica*)

**hookeri** – after Sir Joseph Hooker

(e.g. *Acer hookeri*)

**horizontalis** – horizontally spreading

(e.g. *Cotoneaster horizontalis*)

**humilis** – low growing

(e.g. *Chamaerops humilis*)

**hybrida (us) (um)** – hybrid

(e.g. *Deutzia x hybrida*)

## I

**incana (us) (um)** – grey-downy

(e.g. *Alnus incana*)

**incarnatus** – the colour of pale flesh

**incisus** – incised

**inermis** – not thorny

**inflexus** – concave

**inodorus** – inodorous, having no smell

**insertus** – inserted

**insignis** – excellent, outstanding

(e.g. *Sorbus insignis*)

**insititius** – grafted

**intermedia (us) (um)** – intermediate

(e.g. *Forsythia x intermedia*)

**intricatus** – intricate

## J

**japonica (us) (um)** – of Japan

(e.g. *Aucuba japonica*)

**jasminea** – Jasmine-like (*Daphne jasminea*)

**juniperinus** – like junipers

## K

**kewensis** – from Kew Gardens

**kolomikta** – a former name of the genus now called *Actinidia*

## L

**laciniatus** – lacinate, with frizzled edges

**lacteam (us) (a)** – milk white

(e.g. *Rhododendron lacteam*)

**lanatus** – woolly

**lanceolatus** – lanceolate

**lasiocarpus** – hairy fruits

**latifolia (um) (us)** – broad-leafed

(e.g. *Kalmia latifolia*)

**laureolus, laureus** – like laurels

**laurocerasus** – Cherry Laurel

**laurifolius** – leaves like laurels

**lepidotus** – scaly

**ligustrinus** – like privets

**linearifolius** – with linear leaves

**littoralis (e)** – of sea shores

(e.g. *Griselinia littoralis*)

**lobophyllum** – lobed leaf

**longifolius** – long leafed

**longiracemosus** – long racemes

**lucidus** – very shiny

**lusitanica (um) (us)** – of Portugal

(e.g. *Prunus lusitanica*)

**lutescens** – yellowish

**lutea (um) (us)** – yellow (e.g. *Cladrastis lutea*)

**luxurians** – growing luxuriantly

## M

**macranthus** – having large flowers

**macrocarpus** – having large fruits

**macropetala (um) (us)** – many petals

(e.g. *Clematis macropetala*)

**macrophyllum (us) (a)** – having large leaves

(e.g. *Acer macrophyllum*)

**maculata (us) (um)** – spotted, blotched

(e.g. *Elaeagnus pungens* ‘*Maculata*’)

**magnificus** – magnificent

**majalis** – flowers in May

**majesticus** – sublime, excellent

**major** – larger, greater (e.g. *Vinca major*)

**maliflorus** – like flowers of apple trees

**margaritaceus** – like pearls

**marginata (us) (um)** – margined

(e.g. *Ulmus x viminalis* ‘*Marginata*’)

**marianus** – from Maryland, USA

**maritima (um) (us)** – by the sea

(e.g. *Pinus maritima*)

**mas** – male  
**matsudana** – Chinese name of a species of Salix  
**maximus** – largest  
**media (um) (us)** – middle, midway  
(e.g. Juniperus media)  
**megalophyllus** – large leafed  
**melanocarpus** – with black fruits  
**melanostachys** – with black ears  
**melanotrichus** – with black hairs  
**micranthus** – small flowers  
**microphylla (us) (um)** – small leaves  
(e.g. Azara microphylla)  
**minimus** – smallest  
**minor** – smaller, lesser (e.g. Vinca minor)  
**mollifolius** – with soft leaves  
**mollis** – soft (e.g. Hamamelis mollis)  
**monos** – single  
**monogynus** – having one style  
**monophyllus** – one leafed  
**monstrosus** – monstrous  
**montana (us) (um)** – of mountains  
(e.g. Clematis montana)  
**moschata (us) (um)** – smelling of musk  
(e.g. Olearia moschata)  
**mucronatus** – pointed  
**multiflorus** – multiflowered  
**murorum** – on walls  
**muscosus** – like moss  
**mutabilis** – changeable

## N

**nana (um) (us)** – dwarf  
(e.g. Berberis buxifolia nana)  
**nigra (um) (us)** – black (e.g. Sambucus nigra)  
**nigricans** – turning black  
**nipponica (us) (um)** – from the island of

Nippon (Japan) (e.g. Spiraea nipponica)  
**nitida (um) (us)** – shiny (e.g. Lonicera nitida)  
**nivalis** – snow-white  
**nudiflorum (us) (a)** – without leaves  
(e.g. Jasminum nudiflorum)  
**nummularius** – coin like  
**nutans** – nodding (e.g. Rubus nutans)

## O

**obiatus** – broadly round  
**obliquus** – oblique  
**oblongus** – elongated  
**obovatus** – obovate  
**obtusifolius** – obtuse leaves  
**obtusus** – obtuse  
**occidentalis** – western  
(e.g. Thuja occidentalis)  
**odoratus (um) (a)** – fragrant, sweet scented  
(e.g. Rubus odoratus)  
**odoratissimum (a) (us)** – sweetest scent  
(e.g. Viburnum odoratissimum)  
**officinalis** – used in medicine, herbal  
(e.g. Rosmarinus officinalis)  
**opulifolius** – leaves like Guelder Rose  
**orientalis** – oriental/eastern  
(e.g. Thuja orientalis)  
**ornatus** – decorated  
**ovalifolius** – with ovoid leaves  
**ovatus** – oval  
**oxycanthoides** – thorn-like  
**oxyacanthus** – with acute prickles

## P

**pallidus** – pale  
**palmatus** – hand-shaped  
**paniculata (us) (um)** – flowers in panicles  
(e.g. Hydrangea paniculata)  
**papyrifera** – providing paper

**parviflora (um) (us)** – with small flowers

(e.g. Aesculus parviflora)

**parvifolia (us) (um)** – with small leaves

(e.g. Ulmus parvifolia)

**patulus** – spread out, extended

**pendulinus** – hanging down low

**pendula (us) (um)** – pendulous, weeping

(e.g. Betula pendula)

**petiolaris** – petioled

**petraeus** – growing on rocks

**pictus (um) (a)** – marked, painted, spotted

(e.g. Kalopanax pictus)

**Pileatus, pileate** – having a hat

**pilosus** – with soft hairs

**pinnata (us) (um)** – pinnate

(e.g. Psoralea pinnata)

**platanoides** – like planes

**platyphyllos (a) (um) (us)** – broad leafed

(e.g. Tilia platyphyllos)

**plenus** – double

**pleniflorus** – with double flowers

**plicatus** – folded

**polyanthum (a) (us)** – many flowered

(e.g. Jasminum polyanthum)

**polycarpum** – many fruits

**pomifera** – bearing apples

**praecox** – early (e.g. Cytisus x praecox)

**procera (um) (us)** – very tall, slender

(e.g. Abies procera)

**procumbens** – procumbent, creeping

(e.g. Gaultheria procumbens)

**prostratus (um) (a)** – prostrate, hugging the ground (e.g. Ceanothus prostratus)

**prunifolius** – with leaves like plums

**pseudoacacia** – false acacia

**pseudo-cerasus** – cherry-like, false cherry

**pseudo-platanus** – plane-like, false plane

(e.g. Acer pseudoplatanus)

**pteragonis** – winged

**pubescens** – with downy fuzz

**pulverulentus** – covered with powder

**pumilus** – dwarfish

**pungens** – pungent

**puniceus (um) (a)** – crimson

(e.g. Mimulus puniceus)

**purpurea (us) (um)** – purple-red

(e.g. Corylus purpurea)

**pyramidalis** – pyramidal

**pyrifolius** – leaves like pears

## Q

**quercifolius** – leaves like oaks

**quinquefolius** – five leafed

## R

**racemosa (us) (um)** – in racemes

(e.g. Sambucus racemosa)

**racemiflorus** – flowers in racemes

**radiatus** – radiate

**radicans** – taking root

**ramosus** – branched

**ramosissimus** – many branches

**reflexus** – bent down

**regius** – royal

**repens** – creeping (e.g. Ceanothus repens)

**replicatus** – bent back

**reticulata (um) (us)** – net veined

(e.g. Salix reticulata)

**rhamnoides** – like a Rhamnus

**rigidus** – rigid, stiff

**rivularis** – likes streams and brooks

(e.g. Symphoricarpos rivularis)

**robur** – strength literally oak wood

**robustus** – robust, strong

**rosea (um) (us)** – rose-coloured  
(e.g. *Lavatera rosea*)  
**rosmarinifolius** – leaves like the rosemary  
**rotundifolius** – with round leaves  
**rubens** – reddish, reddening  
**rubra (um) (us)** – red (e.g. *Quercus rubra*)  
**rubrifolium** – with red leaves  
**rufidulus** – fox-red  
**rugosus** – very wrinkled

### S

**saccharinus** – provides sugar  
**salicifolius (um)(a)** – willow-like leaves  
(e.g. *Cotoneaster salicifolius*)  
**salvifolius** – sage-like leaves  
**sanguineum (us) (a)** – blood-red  
(e.g. *Ribes sanguineum*)  
**sativa (um)(us)** – planted or sown  
(e.g. *Castanea sativa*)  
**saxatilis** – likes rocks  
**scabrum** – sharp  
**scoparius** – useful as a broom  
**scopulosus** – growing on high rocks  
**semperflorus** – always flowers  
**sempervirens** – evergreen  
(e.g. *Buxus sempervirens*)  
**sepium** – grows on fences  
**serbicus** – from Serbia  
**sericeus** – silky  
**serotinus** – late  
**serratus** – serrated  
**serrulatus** – slightly serrated  
**sibiricus** – from Siberia  
**silvaticus** – lives in forests  
**simplex** – simple  
**sinensis** – Chinese (e.g. *Wisteria sinensis*)  
**sinuatus** – indented

**sorbifolius** – Rowan-like leaves  
**spectabilis** – attractive  
**spicata (um)(us)** – spiky  
(e.g. *Corylopsis spicata*)  
**spinosus** – thorny, prickly  
**splendens** – glittering, shining  
(e.g. *Cotoneaster splendens*)  
**stellata (um)(us)** – star-like  
(e.g. *Magnolia stellata*)  
**stenophylus** – with slender leaves  
**stenopteris** – with slender wings  
**stipulaceus** – like stipules  
**stolonifera** – produces runners  
**striatus** – stripes  
**strictus** – stiff  
**suaveolens** – fragrant, sweet scented  
(e.g. *Datura suaveolens*)  
**subalpinus** – sub Alpine  
**subcordatus** – slightly cordate  
**subhirtellus** – having short bristles  
**succulentus** – succulent  
**suffruticosa (um)(us)** – semi shrub-like, woody at base (e.g. *Buxus suffruticosa*)  
**superbus** – proud, superb  
**supinus** – spread out  
**suspensus** – hanging  
**sylvatica (um) (us)** – living in forests  
(e.g. *Fagus sylvatica*)  
**syringanthus** – lilac-like flowers

### T

**tenelius** – very tender  
**terminalis** – terminal  
**tetragonus** – four sided  
**tetandrus** – with four anthers  
**thunbergii** – after Carl Peter Thunberg  
(e.g. *Spiraea thunbergii*)  
**thyrsiflorus** – flowers like a bouquet

**tomentosa (um)(us)** – covered with a short

dense pubescence, tomentose

(e.g. *Tilia tomentosa*)

**toxicodendron** – poisonous tree

**tremuloides** – like Aspen

**tremulus** – trembling

**triacanthus** – three thorned

**trichocarpus** – with hairy fruits

**trichocladus** – with hairy twigs

**trichophyllus** – with hairy leaves

**tricolor** – three coloured

(e.g. *Hypericum tricolor*)

**triflora (um)(us)** – with flowers in threes

(e.g. *Abelia triflora*)

**trifoliolate** – three leafed

**tristis** – sad

**typhinus** – like reed mace

## U

**uliginosus** – likes swamps

**ulmifolius** – Elm-like leaves

**ulmoides** – like Elms

**umbellata (um)(us)** – flowers in umbels

(e.g. *Berberis umbellata*)

**uniflora (um)(us)** – one flowered

(e.g. *Crataegus uniflora*)

**undulatus** – wavy

**unifoliatus** – one leaf

**utile (is)** – useful (e.g. *Viburnum utile*)

## V

**vagans** – wandering

**variabilis** – changeable (variable)

**variegata (um)(us)** – variegated, two coloured

(e.g. *Aucuba 'Variegata'*)

**vegetus** – fresh, lively

**velutina (um)(us)** – velvety

(e.g. *Syringa velutina*)

**vernalis** – flowering in spring

(e.g. *Hamamelis vernalis*)

**verrucosus** – warty

**versicolor** – variously coloured or changing

colour (e.g. *Cytisus x vericolor*)

**villosus** – hairy

**viminalis** – rod-shaped

**violacea (um)(us)** – violet

(e.g. *Jovellana violacea*)

**virginalis** – virginal

**viridis** – turning green (e.g. *Alnus viridis*)

**viridissimus** – deep green

**viscosus** – sticky

**vitellinus** – yolk-yellow

**vulgaris** – common (e.g. *Calluna vulgaris*)

## W

**wilsoniae** – after Mrs EH Wilson

(e.g. *Berberis wilsoniae*)

## X

**xanthocarpus** – with yellow fruits

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taking a *growing* lead

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