

Lizzie Harper's Handouts: Leaf Shape, leaf tips and bases, and leaf Margins: Terms you might encounter

Leaf Shape: Some terminology



Obovate



Oblanceolate

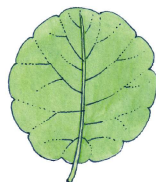


Truncate

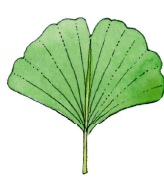


Spatulate

Leaf shape widest above the middle



Orbicular



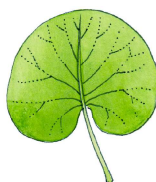
Flabellate



Elliptical/Oval



Linear/Ligulate



Reniform
(Kidney shape)



Palmate/Palmatifid

Leaf shape widest in the middle



Ovate



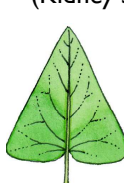
Lanceolate



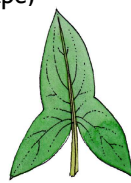
Cordate
(Heart shaped)



Hastate
(Arrow shaped)



Deltoid



Sagittate

Leaf shape widest below the middle

Leaf Margins: Some terminology



Entire
(plain)



Undulate / Lobed



Serrate



Dentate / Toothed



Lacinate



Spinose

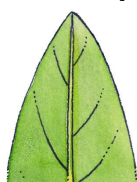


Crenate

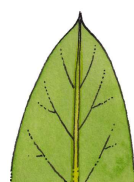


Sinuate

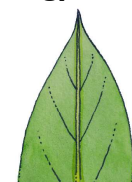
Leaf Tips: Some terminology



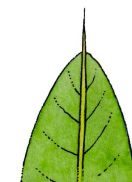
Acute



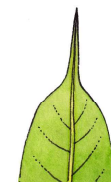
Apiculate



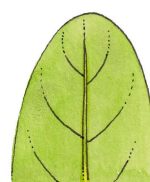
Acuminate



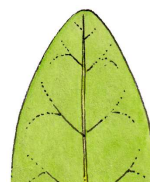
Mucronate



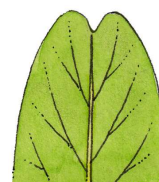
Cuspidate



Rounded

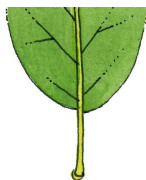


Obtuse

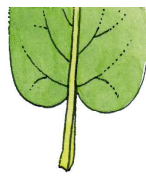


Emarginate/Retuse

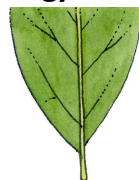
Leaf Bases: Some terminology



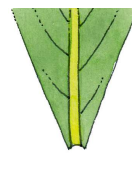
Rounded



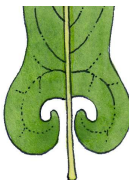
Cordate



Decurrent



Cuneate



Auriculate



Truncate

Notes on terminology

There is an enormous amount of variety in the botanical terms used to describe leaves, depending on what country you work in, when you learned, and botanists' personal preferences. It can be really confusing.

However, most identification guides have illustrated glossaries hidden away somewhere. And this sheet gives an overview of at least some of the commoner terms used which you might come across when researching species that you're illustrating.