

Oak Grove Learning Garden
Taxonomy Scavenger Hunt

Botanical nomenclature has rules for plant names. Write YOUR name the way it would be written if you were a plant:

Genus: the generic name of your group - your family's last name (remember to capitalize the first letter and write in *italics, or slanted letters*)

Species: your specific name - first name (remember it is not capitalized, but is also *italicized*)

Carl Linnaeus loved plants as did his father, who changed the family's last name from Ingermarrson to Linnaeus, in honor of a large linden tree that grew near their house. He grew up in Sweden in the early 1700s, and he made many important discoveries about plants, especially flowers. He realized botanists needed a system of naming plants and suggested two word Latin names since Latin was already being used by scientists. Some plant names are real Latin words, but others are words that had Latin endings like -us, -um, -i, and -ae added to the end, which means "of" or "from". Some of the names describe the plant size, plant color, where the plant grows or was discovered, or the person who discovered it. They can also be named after a particular person, which Linnaeus was known to do. Someone once said that you could make a list of Carl's friends and enemies by looking at a list of plants he named. Beautiful or useful plants had the names of people he admired. Plants that were prickly or ugly were sometimes named after people he didn't get along with.

Read the names of these plants and see if you can identify the "place name" in each of them:

The plum tree called *Eriobotrya japonica* _____

A flower called *Arum italicum* _____

A desert plant called *Geohintonia mexicana* _____

A grass called *Raddia brasiliensis* _____

A mossy looking plant called *Raoulia australis* _____

Many plants have stories behind their scientific names. The scientific name for butterfly bush is *Buddleia davidii*, named after Rev. Adam Buddle of England and Father Armand David, a French missionary to China who sent many plants back to Europe. They were both amateur botanists whom Linnaeus liked. There are several butterfly bushes in the courtyard. **Find a *Buddleia davidii* and describe where it is located:**

The courtyard has examples of a variety of plants, and many are labeled with their scientific name and their common name. Find the 9 plants described below and answer each question.

<p>This deciduous* shrub is native to Georgia and has a white flower that blooms in the late summer. The flower attracts bees, birds, and butterflies. Its scientific name is <i>Clethra alnifolia</i>. One of its common names is sweet pepper bush because the fruit/seed looks like a peppercorn.</p> <p>Smell the flower and create your own common name for this plant. Write the name you created here:</p> <p>hint- Mr. Mark's window</p>	<p><i>Callicarpa americana</i> was used by Native American tribes for medicinal purposes, and farmers would crush leaves and put under harnesses of horses to repel mosquitoes. Its Greek origin comes from callos=beauty and carpos=fruit. What is its common name?</p> <p>hint- media center window</p>	<p>This deciduous* shrub is in a genus named after John Fothergill, an 18th century physician from the UK who collected American plants. The one in the courtyard is a hybrid* discovered in the Mt. Airy Arboretum in Cincinnati, Ohio. What is its name?</p> <p>hint - patio area</p>
<p>There are several species of milkweed in the courtyard. Milkweed is the "host plant"* for the Monarch butterfly (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>) Linnaeus named the genus <i>Asclepias</i>, after the Greek god of healing - Asclepius.</p> <p>List one different species of milkweed:</p> <p>hint- pollinator garden</p>	<p>Find an herbaceous plant that was brought into America in colonial times. Colonists mixed plant sap from the stems and roots with water to form a lathery soap, hence the common names of soapwort and latherwort .</p> <p>What is the scientific name for soapwort?</p> <p>hint - 5th grade near weather instruments</p>	<p><i>Vernonia gigantea</i> was named in honor of William Vernon, an English botanist who worked in North America. Its common name 'Ironweed' refers to the toughness of the stem and the fact that it is very difficult to dig up. Gigantea refers to its size. Find the <i>Vernonia gigantea</i> and estimate its height in feet:</p> <p>_____ feet</p> <p>hint- pollinator garden/purple flower</p>
<p>This edible fruit is in the Rose Family (Rosaceae) and its scientific name comes from the Latin word fragra = fragrant. Its common name is believed to come from the fact that the plant is mulched with straw. Write both the common and scientific name.</p> <p>hint - main sidewalk near trellis</p>	<p>American Pokeweed is a native plant that was never intentionally planted in the garden. Birds eat the purple berries and spread the seeds through the garden after the berry passes through their digestive system. All parts of the plant are poisonous to humans if eaten, but it is being tested to treat different forms of cancer. What is the scientific name of pokeweed?</p> <p>hint - find it near places a bird would perch (birdbath, trellis, etc)</p>	<p>Trumpet Honeysuckle is a climbing vine that attracts hummingbirds (<i>Archilochus colubris</i>) and is the "host plant"* for the moth Snowberry Clearwing (<i>Hemaris diffinis</i>). It was named after a German botanist named Adam Lonicer. What is its scientific name?</p> <p>hint - main walkway near library</p>

***biennial plant**- a flowering plant that takes 2 years to complete its biological lifecycle; **deciduous** - a tree or shrub that sheds its leaves annually; **hybrid** - a cross between two different plant varieties or species; **host plant** - the plant a female butterfly lays her eggs on and also the food source for the caterpillar; **invasive plant** - a species that is not native to the ecosystem that it lives in and threatens the survival of native species living there