

## Example Plant Habit Categories

| PLANTS Description | PLANTS Definition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Forb/herb          | Vascular plant without significant woody tissue above or at the ground. Forbs and herbs may be annual, biennial, or perennial but always lack significant thickening by secondary woody growth and have perennating buds borne at or below the ground surface. In PLANTS, graminoids are excluded but ferns, horsetails, lycopods, and whisk-ferns are included. |
| Graminoid          | Grass or grass-like plant, including grasses (Poaceae), sedges (Cyperaceae), rushes (Juncaceae), arrow-grasses (Juncaginaceae), and quillworts ( <i>Isoetes</i> ).                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Lichenous          | Organism generally recognized as a single "plant" that consists of a fungus and an alga or cyanobacterium living in symbiotic association. Often attached to solid objects such as rocks or living or dead wood rather than soil.                                                                                                                                |
| Liana              | Climbing plant found in tropical forests with long, woody rope-like stems of anomalous anatomical structure.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Nonvascular        | Nonvascular, terrestrial green plant, including mosses, hornworts, and liverworts. Always herbaceous, often attached to solid objects such as rocks or living or dead wood rather than soil.                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Shrub              | Perennial, multi-stemmed woody plant that is usually less than 4 to 5 meters (13 to 16 feet) in height. Shrubs typically have several stems arising from or near the ground, but may be taller than 5 meters or single-stemmed under certain environmental conditions.                                                                                           |
| Subshrub           | Low-growing shrub usually under 0.5 m (1.5 feet) tall, never exceeding 1 meter (3 feet) tall at maturity.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Tree               | Perennial, woody plant with a single stem (trunk), normally greater than 4 to 5 meters (13 to 16 feet) in height; under certain environmental conditions, some tree species may develop a multi-stemmed or short growth form (less than 4 meters or 13 feet in height).                                                                                          |
| Unknown            | Growth form is unknown.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Vine               | Twining/climbing plant with relatively long stems, can be woody or herbaceous.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

[http://plants.usda.gov/growth\\_habits\\_def.html](http://plants.usda.gov/growth_habits_def.html)

|               |                                                                                 |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Herb          | a plant with no woody tissue                                                    |
| Shrub         | a plant with multiple stems, woody, short                                       |
| Tree          | a plant with single stem, woody, tall                                           |
| Succulent     | a plant that's very fleshy, with a juicy stem                                   |
| Vine          | a stem that climbs or trails and needs support                                  |
| Liana         | a plant with woody vines                                                        |
| Forb          | non-grass herbaceous plant                                                      |
| Epiphyte      | A plant that uses another for support                                           |
| Holo-parasite | A plant that relies completely on a host plant. Non-photosynthetic.             |
| Hemi-parasite | A plant that steals water and minerals from a host plant, but is photosynthetic |
| Monocot       | Parallel veined leaves, Flower parts in 3s,                                     |
| Dicot         | Reticulate veined leaves, Flower parts in 4s and 5s,                            |

<http://quizlet.com/6376588/plant-taxonomy-1b-plant-habit-and-mono-vs-di-flash-cards/>



**Tree**

An upright, reasonably large [more than (3-4) 5 metres tall] woody plant, usually with a single stem.



**Erect to ascending shrub**

An upright (or spreading horizontally and then becoming upright) multiple stemmed woody plant which is generally smaller than a tree (usually less than 5 metres tall).



**Prostrate or decumbent shrub**

A woody plant with branches spreading along the ground or lying flat on the ground, or spreading along the ground for most of its length but with tips turning upwards.



**Climbing or twining or straggling**

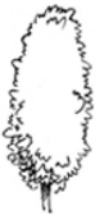
Woody or herbaceous plants with stems that are not self-supporting, but are climbing or straggling on some support.



**Rosette-forming or herbaceous (non-climbing)**

Herbs (or rarely shrubs) with a whorl of leaves (by contraction of stem internodes) at the base of the stem, or non-woody, non-climbing plants.

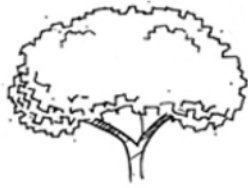
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columnar



oval



wide



arching



spreading



oval

————— TREES ————— SHRUBS —————



spire



globe



plume



umbel



solitary

————— HERBS —————

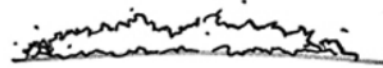


tussock



strap

————— MONOCOTS —————



groundcover

————— TRAILING —————



vine

<http://california-plant.com/selectioncriteria.html>