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## Glossary

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**Abdomen:** The part of the insect's body that is on the end opposite from the head.

**Alike:** Acting or looking the same.

**Anther:** The part of the stamen that produces pollen.

**Bee:** An insect that helps move pollen from one flower to another.

**Bee stick:** A toothpick with a dead honeybee glued to its end. It is used for pollinating the Wisconsin Fast Plant™.

**Brainstorm:** To share ideas on a topic. People often brainstorm to solve a problem.

**Brassica rapa:** The scientific name for the Wisconsin Fast Plant™.

**Bud:** A small new growth at the tip or side of a plant stem that develops into a flower, a leaf, or a shoot.

**Centimeter (cm):** A unit of length in the metric system. 2.5 centimeters equal 1 inch.

**Chlorophyll:** A substance in plants that absorbs light and uses its energy to make food. Chlorophyll gives green plants their color.

**Communicate:** To share information and ideas through speaking, writing, or drawing.

**Compare:** To look at two or more things to see how they are alike or different.

**Cotyledon:** A thick leaf in the seeds of a plant that provides food until the plant can begin to make its own food. Also called a seed leaf.

**Cross-pollination:** The process by which pollen is carried from the male part of a flower to the female part of another flower.

**Crucifer:** The name of a large family of plants. The Wisconsin Fast Plant™ is a member of the crucifer family; so are cabbage and cauliflower.

**Data:** Information, such as that gathered during an experiment.

**Describe:** To use words to explain how something looks, feels, or acts.

**Different:** Not the same.

**Dormancy:** A period of rest or inactivity.

**Embryo:** The tiny, undeveloped plant found in the seed.

**Experiment:** A procedure that is carried out to investigate a scientific question.

**Fair test:** A test that compares two or more things by keeping everything the same except the thing being compared. A race is a fair test. Everyone starts at the same place and at the same time and ends at the same place. The only thing that is different is the speed of the runners.

**Fertilization:** The process that occurs when pollen reaches the egg in the ovary of a plant. Fertilization usually results in the formation of a seed.

**Flower:** The reproductive organ of a plant.

**Germination:** The process by which seeds swell up, begin to sprout, and develop stem and roots.

**Graph:** A diagram used to show the relationship between things.

**Growth spurt:** A time when growth is particularly rapid.

**Guess:** To give an idea about something when you are not sure.

**Harvest:** To remove the seeds from a plant; to pick a crop.

**Head:** The part of the insect's body on the opposite end from the abdomen.

**Investigate:** To study something closely and in an organized way.

**Leaf:** A flat, green part of a plant; usually grows off the stem.

**Length:** The distance from one end of something to the other.

**Life cycle:** The stages that an organism goes through from the time of its formation to its death.

**Measure:** To find out the length, size, or weight of something.

**Nectar:** A sweet liquid made by certain flowers.

**Observe:** To use your senses to study something closely.

**Ovary:** The part of the pistil in which seeds are formed.

**Ovule:** A part of the flower that is found inside the ovary. If the ovule is fertilized, it becomes a seed.

**Pattern:** A repeating arrangement of shapes, colors, numbers, or other things.

**Petal:** A brightly colored part of a flower.

**Photosynthesis:** The process by which green plants, in the presence of light, make food out of carbon dioxide and water.

**Pistil:** The female part of the flower that consists of the stigma, style, and ovary.

**Plant:** A living thing. Plants usually have roots and cannot move from place to place. They have cell walls. Most plants can make their own food.

**Plot:** To locate a point or points on a graph.

**Pod:** The part of a plant that surrounds the seeds. When the seeds ripen, the pod splits open.

**Pollen:** A fine, usually yellow, dust that is produced in the anther and is used to fertilize the seeds of the plant.

**Pollination:** The process by which pollen is moved from the male part, or stamen, of a plant to the female part, or pistil, of a flower. This is done by the wind or by insects such as bees.

**Procedure:** A set of steps that tells how to do something.

**Predict:** To say what you think is going to happen.

**Property:** Something about an object that helps tell what it is.

**Root:** A plant part that grows down into the soil. The roots absorb nutrients and water that the plant needs.

**Same:** Alike; not different.

**Seed:** The structure formed when a pollen grain fertilizes an ovule.

**Seed coat:** The protective covering of a seed.

**Seed leaf:** The part of a seed that stores food for the seedling to use when it begins to grow; also called a cotyledon.

**Seedling:** A very young plant.

**Seed scar:** A spot on a seed that shows where it was attached to the parent plant.

**Senses:** Touch, taste, smell, sight, and hearing.

**Shape:** The form of an object.

**Shoot:** The part of the plant that is above the ground—the stem and leaves; new growth on a plant.

**Size:** A measurement of how big something is.

**Stamen:** The male part of a flower that consists of the anther and filament.

**Stem:** The part of a plant that supports the leaves, fruit, or flowers.

**Stigma:** The sticky top of the pistil. The stigma receives the pollen.

**Thinning:** The process of removing some plants to make room for the others to grow better.

**Thorax:** The middle part of an insect's body. Located between the head and the abdomen.

**Tool:** An object used to do a task.

**Transplant:** To move a plant to another location.

**True leaves:** Leaves that can make food through photosynthesis. True leaves replace seed leaves.

**Unit:** A fixed quantity used as a standard of measure. Inches, miles, meters, degrees, and kilograms are all units.

**Weight:** A measurement of how heavy something is.