

Plant Identification



**Answers to
review questions**

- 1. Plant identification is important for several reasons. List three of them.**
 - It helps in diagnosing a plant problem, such as a disease or insect, since different plants are susceptible to different problems (*p. 473*).
 - You can determine the plant's cultural requirements (*p. 473*).
 - You can determine the plant's mature size, which is useful when selecting plants for a landscape (*p. 473*).
 - You can determine the plant's flowering and fruiting habits (*p. 473*).
- 2. Why is it important to learn the botanical names of plants when common names are easier to say and remember?***

One of the most important reasons for learning the Latin names of plants is to be able to discuss the plant with other gardeners, nursery personnel, and pest control experts and be sure you're talking about the same plant. Consider the following: the European white waterlily has 245 common names, depending on which country you live in. Its scientific name, *Nymphaea alba* L., is recognized everywhere, however.
- 3. The plant classification system is made up of several levels. Which are the two most important levels for the typical gardener?**

Genus and species (*p. 474*)
- 4. The term "cultivar" is an abbreviation for what? Why are cultivars important?**

Cultivar means cultivated variety. Cultivars are plants that are propagated or selected for a specific desirable feature or trait (*p. 475*).

*You may need to use other chapters, additional reference materials, or your own experience to answer this question fully.