



What's In A Name???

SO, Where Do these Crazy Names
Come from?

Taxonomic Units

- Kingdom

Division

Class

Order

Family

Genus ←

Species ←

Variety or subspecies ←

Cultivar ←

Forma

Plant Nomenclature

- Binomial System
 - Two part name for each species:
 - Generic term- always capitalized and italicized (in written work)
 - Specific epithet- always lower case and italicized (in written work)
 - Underline entire name when handwritten

Why two name system?

- Avoids confusion in common names
- International in use
- Descriptive and shows relationship to other plants



Perennial hibiscus or swamp mallow = *Hibiscus moscheutos*

Whose name is it anyway?

- Linnaeus– “Father of Taxonomy”
 - System for naming organisms
- Third portion of name indicates person whom named plant
 - i.e Linnaeus = L.
 - *Camellia japonica* (L.), Japanese camellia



Genus (Genera- plural)

- Group of plants that are similar
- Group of plants with reproductive (flowers & fruits) similarities
- For example: Maples = *Acer*



Acer rubrum, red maple

Acer buergerianum, trident maple and *Acer rubrum*, red maple



Photos Etsy

and

The Tree center

Species

(Species- plural or singular; sp.- singular and spp.- Plural)



- Related individuals w/in genus resemble one another; genetic variation prevalent
- Able to breed among themselves, but not with members of another species

Chionanthus virginicus, fringetree

Common species of oak (*Quercus*)

Quercus macrocarpa, bur oak

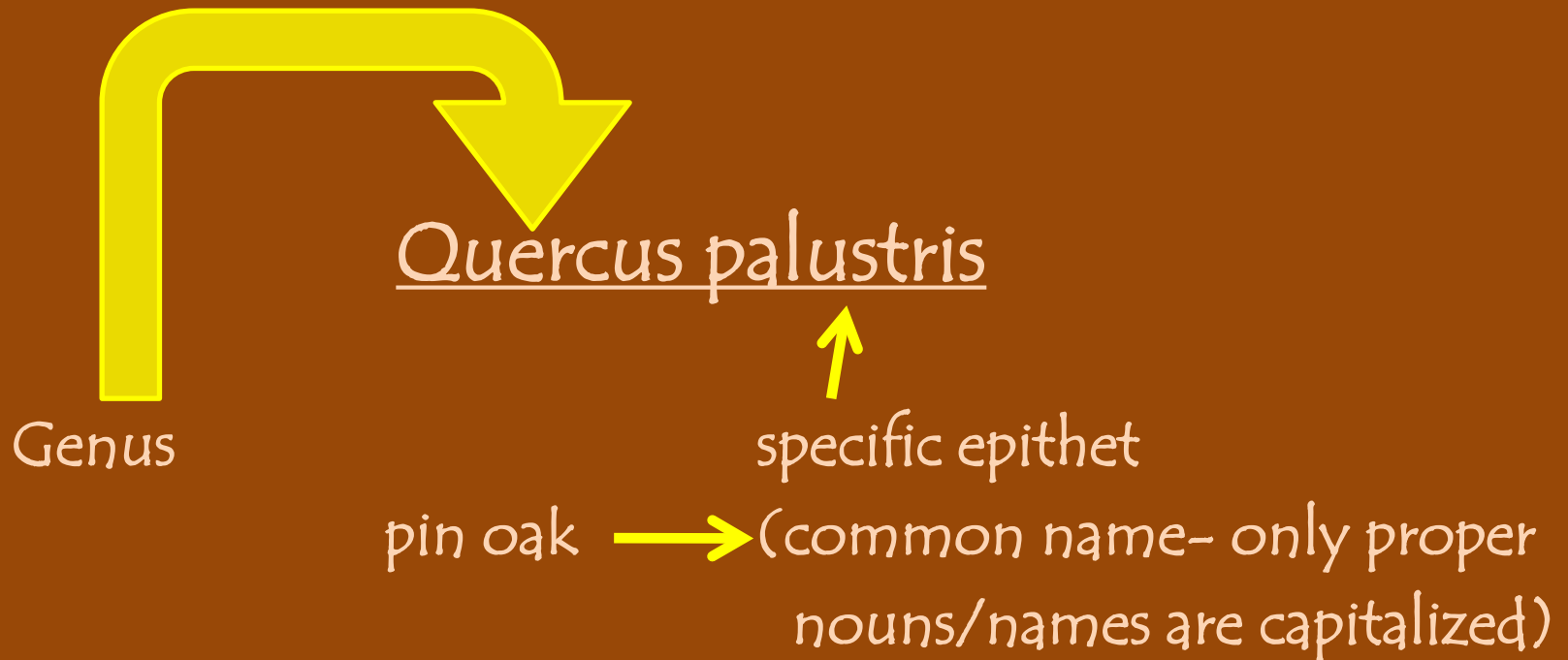


Quercus palustris, pin oak

Quercus rubra, red oak



Proper writing of species

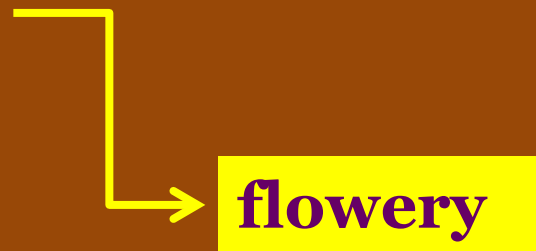


Variety or subspecies



- Variation within species distinctive, but not enough to make it a new species
- Natural then propagated by humans
- Self-perpetuating

Acer saccharum subsp. floridanum



Examples of Variation

- Size (dwarf)
- Habit (weeping)
- Leaf color (variegation)
- Flower color or petal count (single vs. double)



Prunus subhirtella var. pendula

Cercis canadensis var. alba
white flowering Eastern redbud



Picea glauca var. conica
Dwarf Alberta spruce



Cultivar

- Group of plants with very distinct characteristics that are retained in sexual or asexual reproduction
- Occurs naturally, then propagated
- *Most important unit in horticulture*
- Always in single quotes

Carpinus betulus 'Fastigiata', upright
European hornbeam



Cornus florida var. rubra 'Cherokee Chief'
Cherokee Chief red-flowering dogwood



Photo- Weston Nurseries

Additional important nomenclature



- Intergeneric hybrid– cross between 2 genera

For example:

X *Cupressocyparis leylandii*,
Leyland cypress

- Interspecific hybrid- controlled (or chance) hybridization between two related species

Prunus x domestica, Pluot plum

cross of *P. domestica* and *P. armeniaca*



- Trademark

- no taxonomic validity (must use with cultivar name)
- protects discoverer
- requires royalties be paid, licensing
- All about \$\$\$\$\$

Place a TM behind name → get sole rights to that name forever

Place a ® behind name → name becomes a registered trademark, with the Office of Patent and Trademarks, in D.C.; expires and must be renewed