



## Writing a Botanical Name

This self-check worksheet aims to help you practice and evaluate your understanding of botanical nomenclature - the system botanists devised and use to create a formal scientific name for plants that conforms to the International Code of Nomenclature.

**Activity Time:** 15 to 30 minutes

**Materials:** botanic books, experts or reliable Internet resources, *Latin 101* by Dora Galitzki in Garden Design magazine from October 2000 pages 88 to 89.

**Guiding Question:** How is having a shared naming system valuable in cultivating plants?

**Activity:**

- Use print publications or reliable experts or Internet resources to research what is the botanical name (formal scientific name) given to the following plants?
  - 1) Redbud
  - 2) Arrowwood
  - 3) White oak
  
- Think of your very favorite tree. What is the common name you use for that tree? What is its botanical name (formal scientific name)?
  
  
- Think of your very favorite vegetable. What is the common name you use for that vegetable? What is its botanical name (formal scientific name)? What is a variety name? Is your favorite vegetable specific to a variety? Consider when and how the terms variety and cultivar are used in formal and informal ways.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Can you identify the error(s) in each of the following botanical names? What is a common name or names for each plant? Which of these plants have variety or cultivar names?
  - 1) *Cornus florida*
  - 2) *Prunus subhirtella* “Pendula”
  - 3) *Acer Rubrum* ‘October Glory’
  - 4) *Acer palmatum* ‘waterfall’
  
- Create a plant name for yourself using the list of the meanings of Latin and Greek specific epithets (see *Latin 101*). For example, because I love trees, I might create: *Barbneal arborea*

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