

# **Plant Identification**



























# **Nine Keys to Plant ID**

- 1. Form**
- 2. Texture**
- 3. Leaf shape**
- 4. Leaf position**
- 5. Leaf margin**
- 6. Leaf Veins**
- 7. Growing season**
- 8. Hardiness zone**
- 9. Stems, bark, flowers**

# Form

1. Vase
2. Columnar
3. Round
4. Weeping
5. Pyramidal
6. Arching
7. Irregular
8. Cascading
9. Upright
10. Spiky
11. Rounded
12. Mounding
13. Clumping
14. Matting
15. Sprawling
16. Spikes
17. Spreading



# Common Tree Forms



Columnar

Oval

Vase

Weeping

Pyramidal

Round

# Columnar



white spruce

# Oval



maple



Vase



# Weeping

Twisted redbud



# Pyramidal

aborvitae

# Round



elm

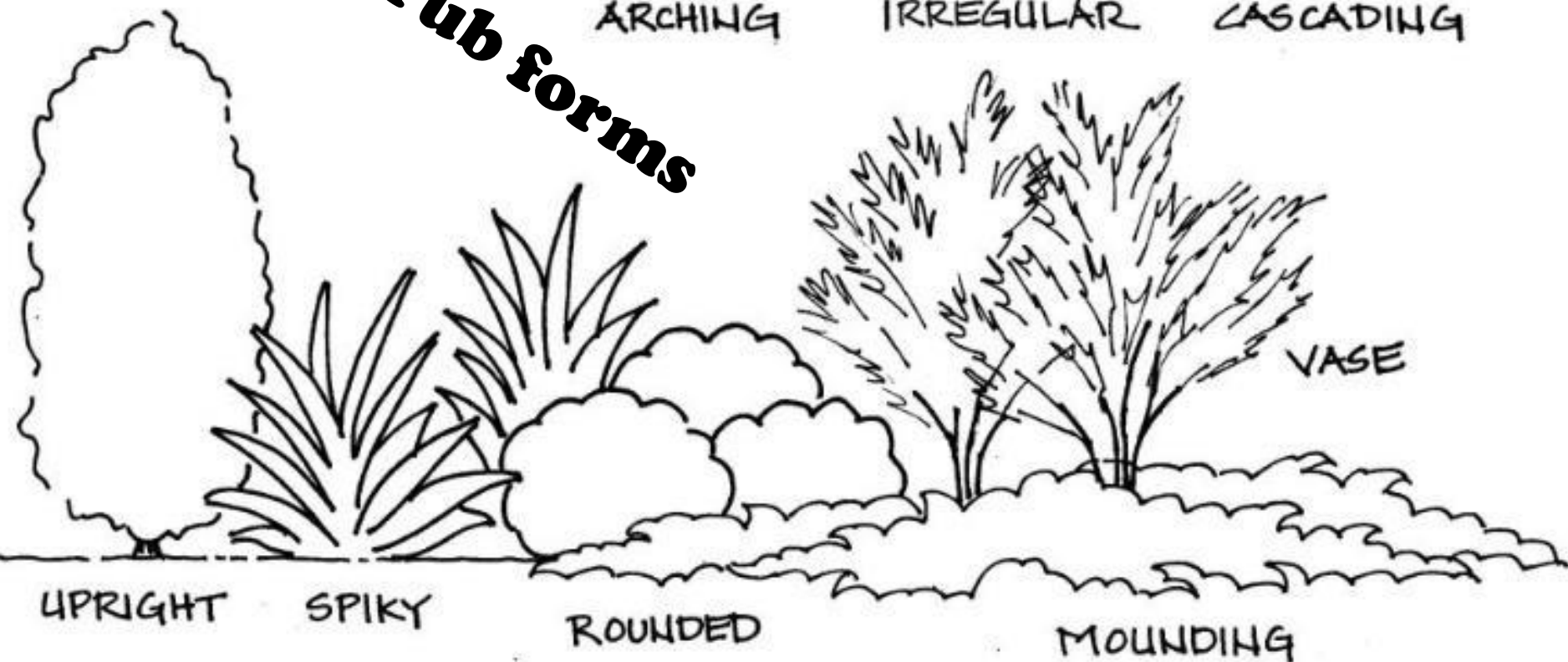
# Common Shrub forms



ARCHING

IRREGULAR

CASCADING



UPRIGHT

SPIKY

ROUNDED

MOUNDING

VASE

# Upright



Spiky

Red margined



hawthorn

Rounded



# Vase



Rose of sharon

# Mounding



pittosporum

Arching

abelia



Irregular

sage



Cascading



Japanese maple

# Common Ground Cover forms



Clumping



liriope

# Matting



Creeping juniper

# Sprawling

lantana



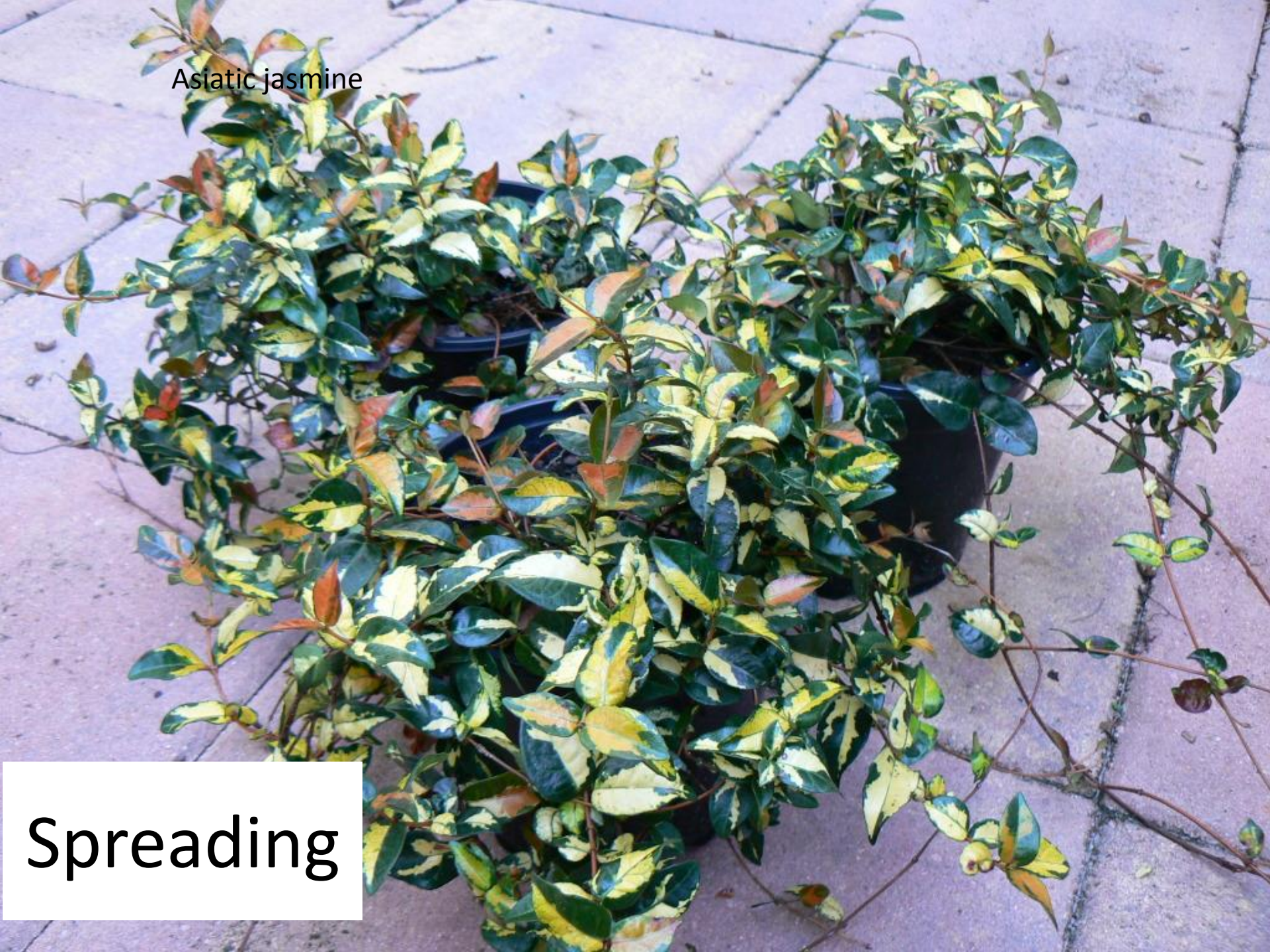


Short Spikes

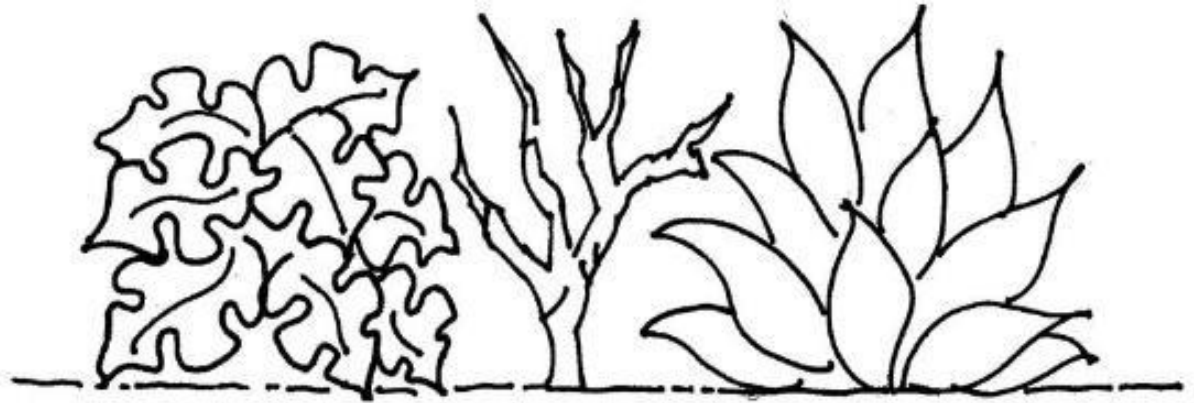
ajuga

Asiatic jasmine

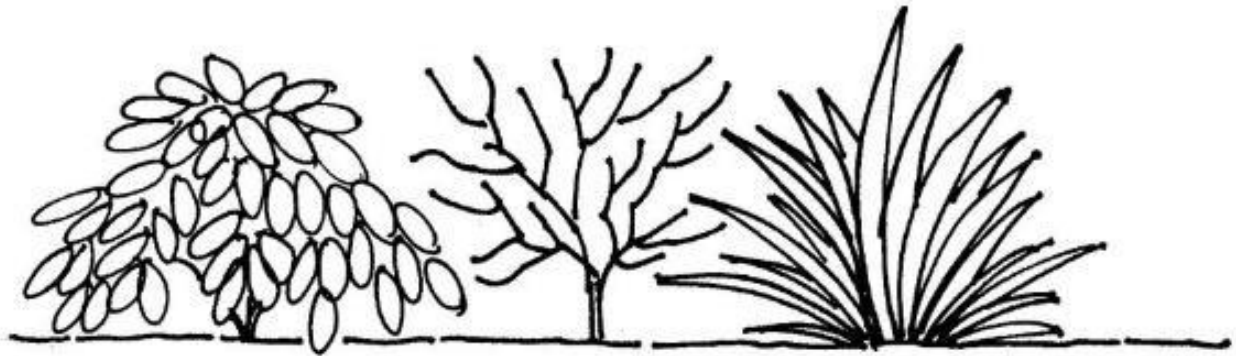
Spreading



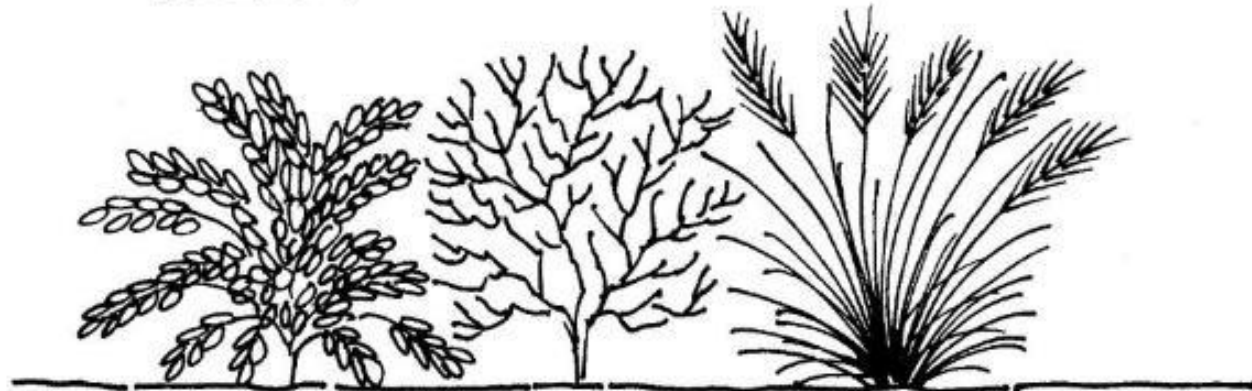
## 2. Texture



COARSE

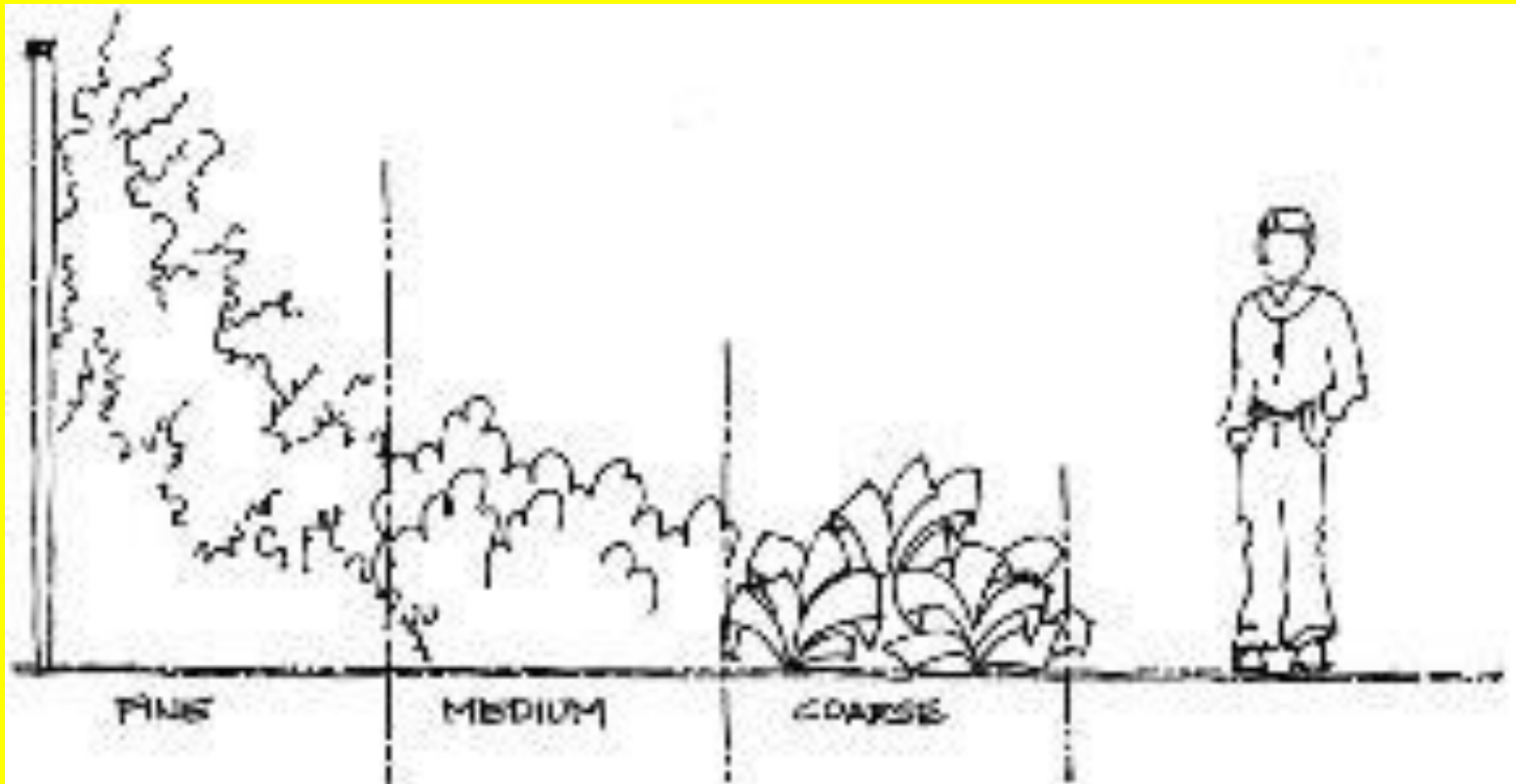


MEDIUM

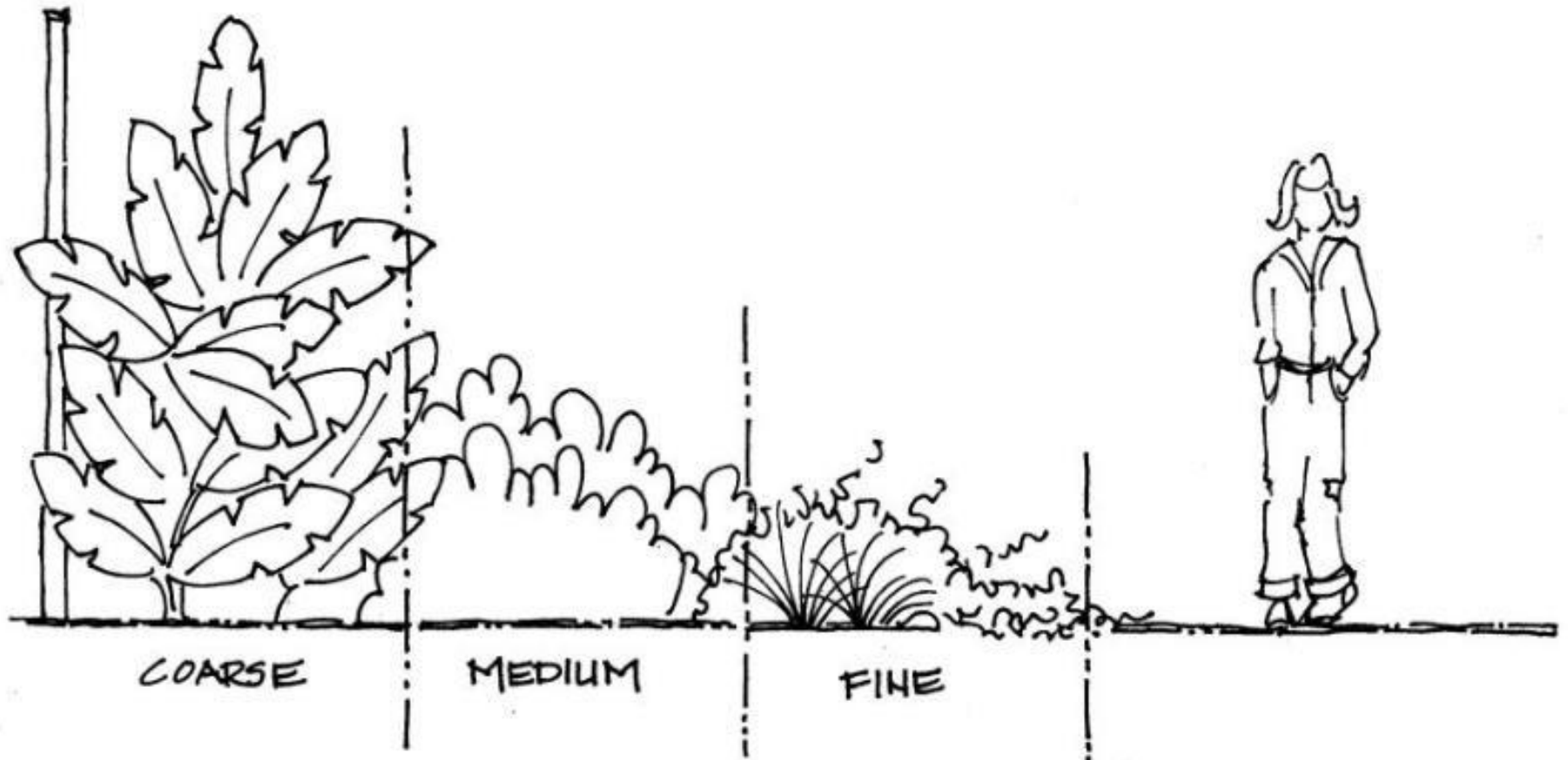


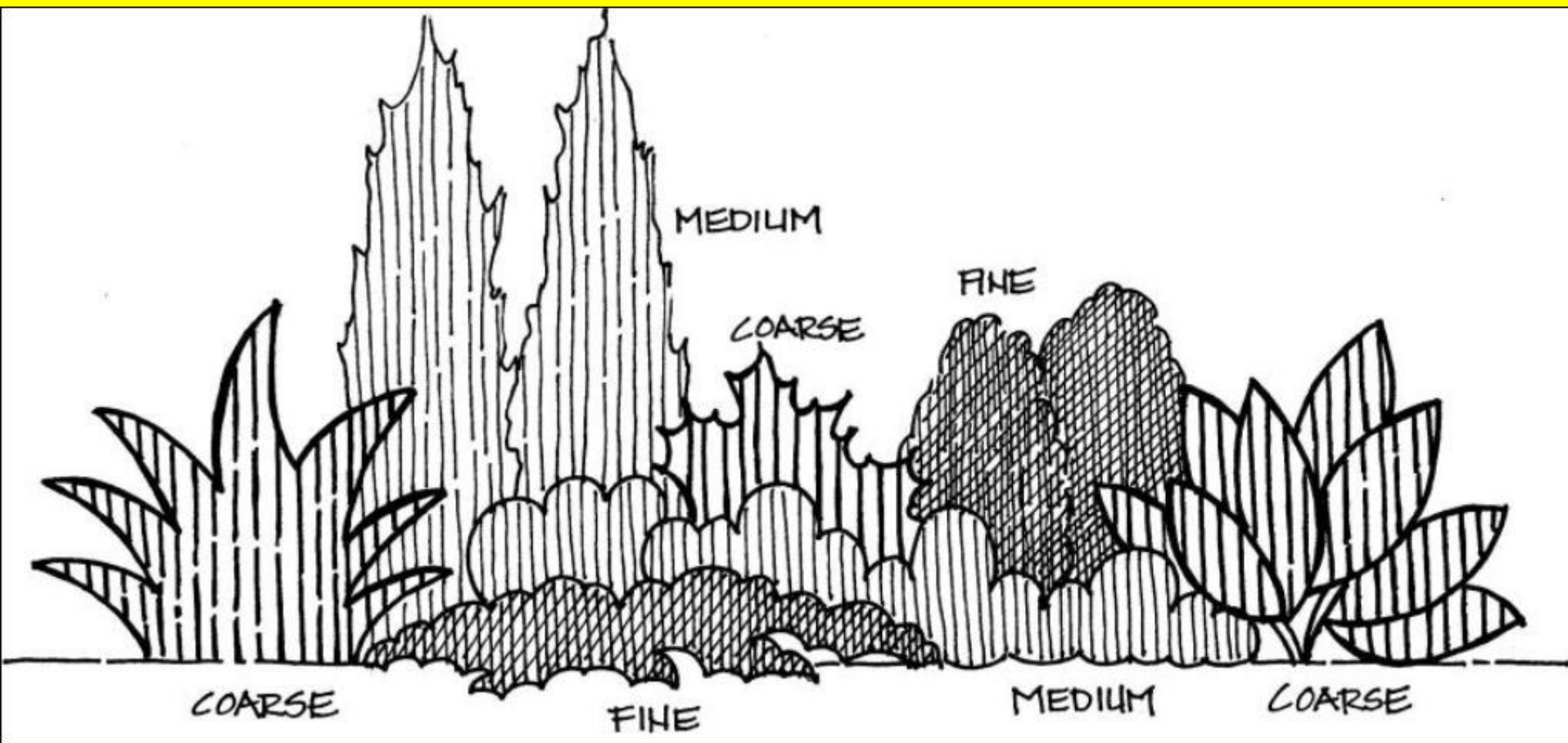
FINE

# Space feels larger



# Space feels smaller







Boston fern

**Fine Texture**

**Coarse Texture**



Elephant ear

### 3. Leaf Shape

[www.infovisual.info](http://www.infovisual.info)



asymmetrical



acuminate



mucronate



emarginate



ovate



obovate



cordiform



oblong



spatulate



oval



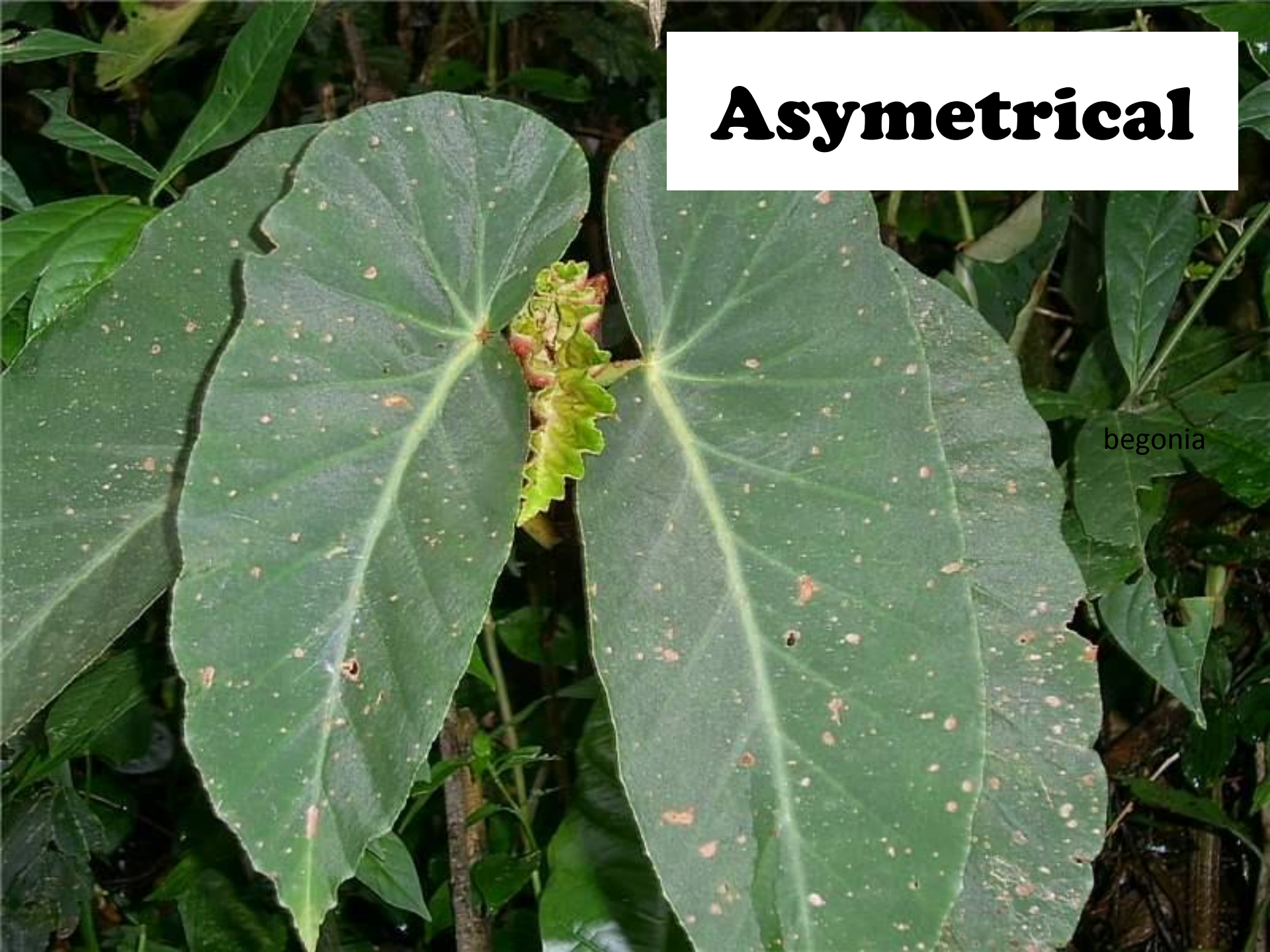
lanceolate



acicular

# Asymmetrical

begonia



**Acuminate**

peach



**Mucronate**



**Emarginate**



Paradise  
plum

A close-up photograph of several large, green, ovoid leaves of a peace lily plant. The leaves are covered with numerous small, clear water droplets, which are reflecting light and giving the leaves a glossy appearance. The leaves are arranged in a dense, overlapping pattern. The word "Ovoid" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font in the upper center of the image.

**Ovoid**

# Obovate



canna

Vinca major

**Cordiform**



Sawtooth oak

**Oblong**

A close-up photograph of a Japanese barberry branch. The branch is covered in sharp, reddish-brown thorns. Several bright green, spatulate (spoon-shaped) leaves are attached to the branch. The leaves are ovate with rounded tips and slightly wavy margins. The background is dark and out of focus.

Japanese barberry

**Spatulate**



**Oval**

camelia

A close-up photograph of a Vitex plant. The image shows several green, lanceolate leaves with prominent veins, arranged in a palmate pattern. Above the leaves, there are clusters of small, purple flowers. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the word "Lanceolate" in bold black text. The word "vitex" is written in a small, dark font on the right side of the image.

**Lanceolate**

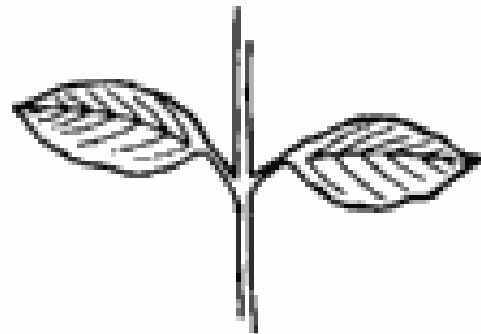
vitex

**Acicular**

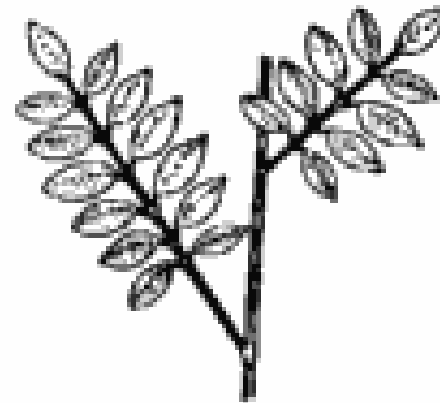


pine

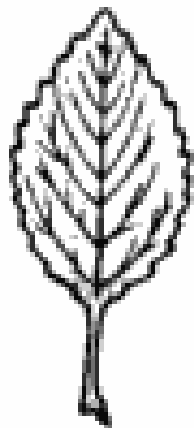
## 4. Leaf Position



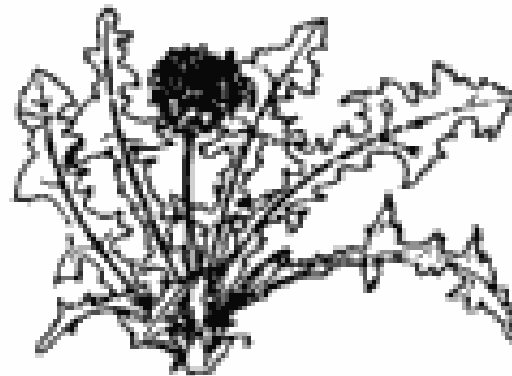
**OPPOSITE**



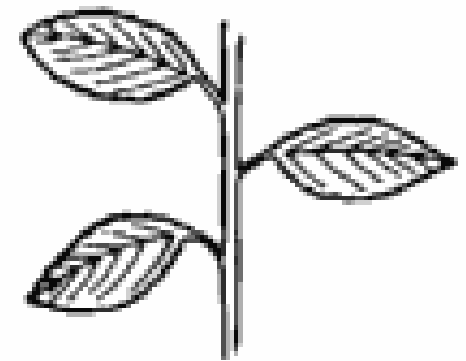
**COMPOUND**



**SIMPLE**



**BASAL ROSETTE**



**ALTERNATE**

**Figure 9-3. Leaf arrangements.**

**Opposite** laur



A close-up photograph of a mimosa plant, showing several large, feathery compound leaves. The leaves are a vibrant green color and are arranged in a symmetrical, pinnate pattern. The central rachis is clearly visible, with numerous smaller leaflets branching off it. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the same plant and some brownish ground or other vegetation.

# Compound

mimosa



sycamore

**Simple**

# Basal Rosette



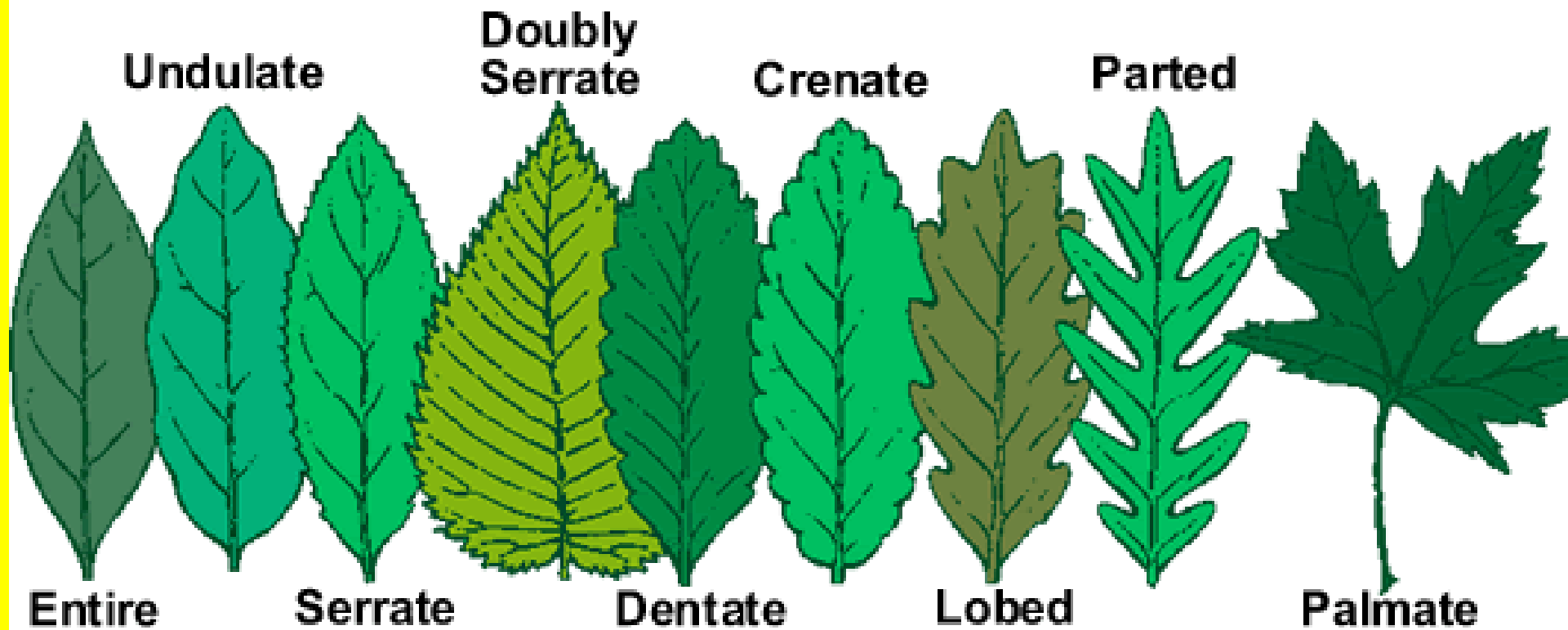
Carpet bugleweed



pecan

**Alternate**

## 5. Leaf Margin



A close-up photograph of the leaves of a Dwarf Burford Holly. The leaves are dark green, glossy, and have an elliptical shape with pointed tips. They are arranged in clusters along the stems. The lighting is bright, creating highlights on the leaf surfaces.

# Entire

Dwarf  
burford

**Undulate**

zonal



A close-up photograph of several green leaves with serrated edges, attached to a thin branch. The leaves are ovate-lanceolate with prominent pinnate venation. The serrations are regular and sharp. The background is dark and out of focus.

# Serrate

elm



**Doubly Serrate**

River birch



**Dentate**

A close-up photograph of a plant branch. The leaves are green, oval-shaped, and have a crenate (scalloped) margin. They are arranged alternately along the stem. Small, white, five-petaled flowers are clustered in the leaf axils. Some small, round, yellowish buds are also visible. The background is dark and out of focus.

yaupon

**Crenate**


**Lobed**





columbine

**Parted**

A close-up photograph of several bright green, palmately 7-lobed leaves of a sweet gum tree. The leaves have serrated margins and prominent venation. Some leaves show small holes, likely from insect feeding. The background is a dark, out-of-focus forest.

Sweet gum

**Palmate**



## 6. Veins

08/04/2008 11:46

# 7. Growing Season

## **By leaf drops:**

**Deciduous** - no living leaves during dormant (winter) season (Red Oak)

**Evergreen** - retaining functional leaves throughout the year (Live Oak)

## **By life span:**

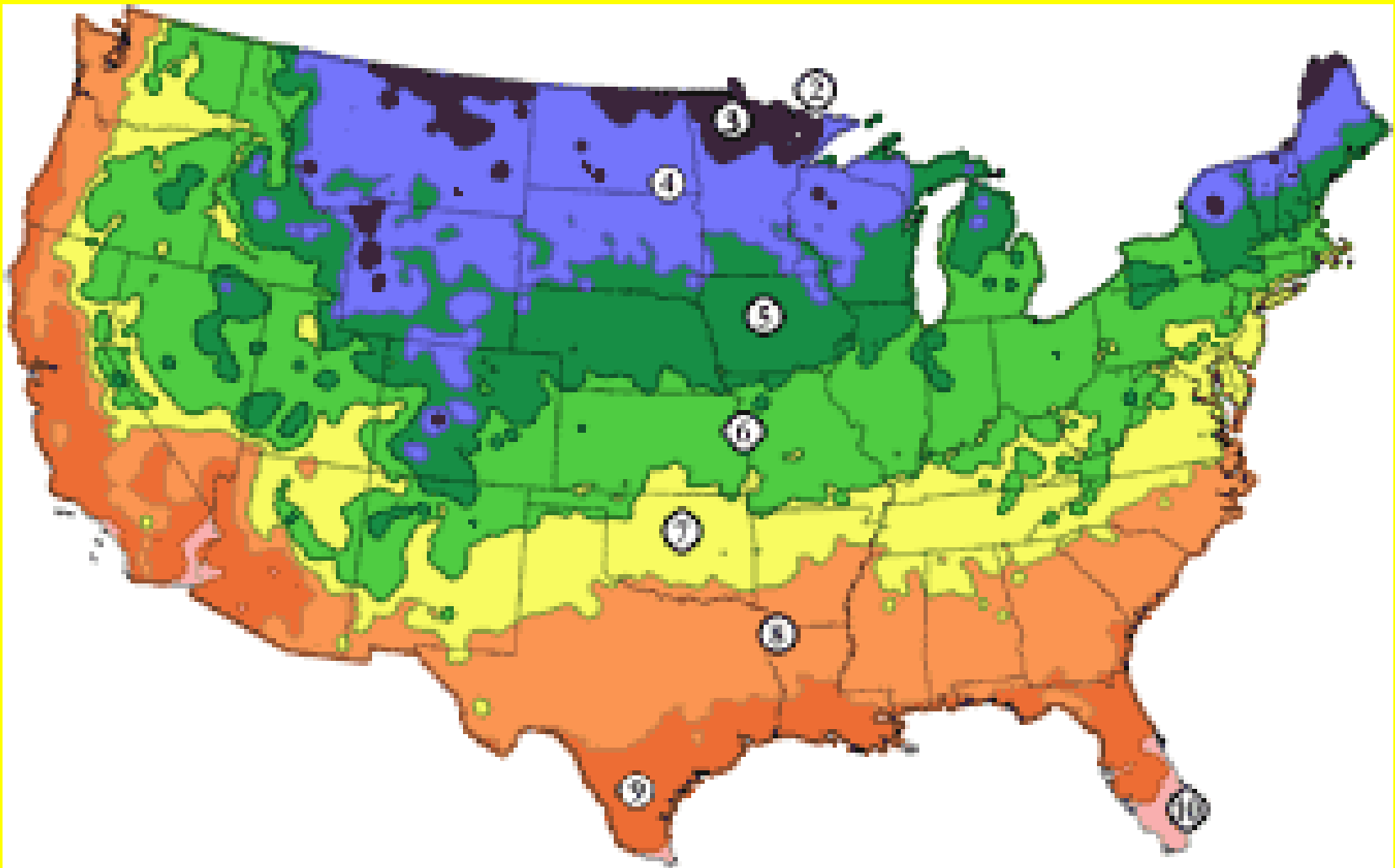
**Annuals** - plants that normally complete their life cycle during a single growing season (pansy, petunia, marigold)

**Biennial** - plant that normally completes its life cycle during a period of two growing seasons (Hollyhock and Primrose)

**Perennial** - plants that grow year after year, often taking many years to mature.

Unlike annuals and biennials, the perennial does not necessarily die after flowering (trees and shrubs)

## 8. Hardiness Zone



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# **9. Stems, Bark, Flowers**



birch



elm



bur



lantana



canola



esperanza



Desert  
willow



hibiscus



forsythia



rose



bird