Quick anatomy: know the parts of your plant

Leaf

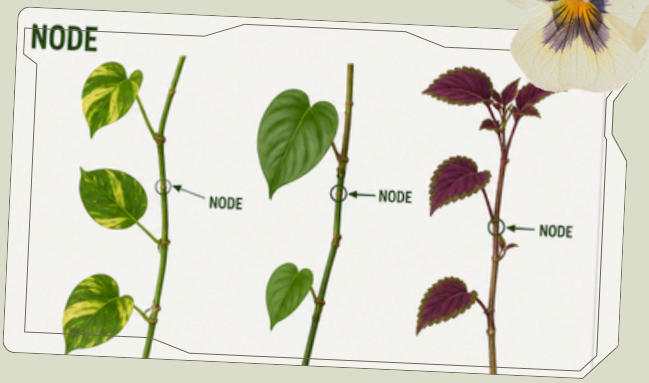
This is the plant's energy center. Through photosynthesis, it turns sunlight into food. It also uses tiny pores called stomata (mainly on the underside of the leaf) to exchange gases with the environment.

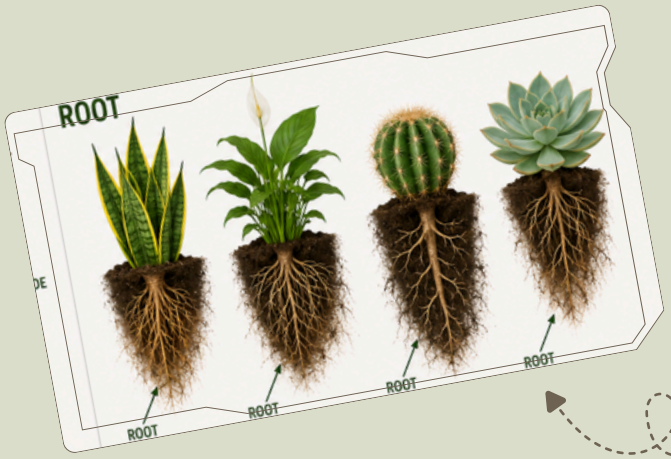
Stem (and Trunk in woody plants)

This is the plant's main support structure. It also works like an internal transport system, moving water, nutrients, and energy between the roots and the leaves.

Node

This is the point on the stem where leaves, buds, and sometimes aerial roots grow. In gardening, especially in the US, nodes are essential reference points for propagation (cuttings) and pruning.





Root

This is the plant's underground system. It absorbs water and nutrients from the soil, stores energy reserves, and anchors the plant firmly in place.

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Visual guide:
Types of plants by form and growth

By structure

Tree-like and shrub-like plants

These plants develop woody stems that, over time, form trunks or stronger branches. They usually grow taller and maintain a well-defined structure.
Examples: weeping fig (Ficus benjamina), money tree (Pachira aquatica).

Herbaceous plants

These have soft, green, flexible stems with no permanent woody tissue. They typically stay more compact and are mainly valued for their foliage and flowers.
Examples: prayer plant (Calathea spp.), flamingo flower (Anthurium andraeanum).

By how they store water

Succulents and cacti

These plants store large amounts of water in their leaves, stems, or roots, allowing them to survive long periods of drought. Because of this, overwatering is one of the most common causes of problems in these plants.

Bulb and rhizome plants

These plants store energy and water in underground structures such as bulbs, rhizomes, or tubers. Even if they lose all their leaves during certain times of the year, they can regrow when conditions become favorable again.
Examples: begonia (Begonia spp.), alocasia (Alocasia spp.).

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