

# Meet the Plant Groups

Before you begin your plant observations, get to know five key plant categories.



## Wildflowers and Herbs

have soft green stems. These plants die or go dormant in the winter and grow back in spring.

## Deciduous Trees and Shrubs

shed their leaves every year and have hard, woody stems. Trees have one main stem (trunk). Shrubs are smaller and have many stems.



## Broadleaf Evergreens

are trees and shrubs that maintain their green leaves all year long.



## Grasses

have long leaves growing from the base of the plant and tiny flowers pollinated by the wind. Grasses die at the end of the growing season.



**Conifers** are woody trees and shrubs that produce cones with pollen and seeds (instead of fruits and flowers). Most have evergreen needles all year long.

*Conifers are a type of evergreen with unique phenophases.*



## Phenophases & Climate Change

When weather changes with the seasons, it signals plants to move on to a new life cycle stage, or phenophase. But when climate change affects the weather, it can also affect how plants grow. For example, a peach tree needs a certain amount of chilly winter weather. If winters get warmer faster because of climate change, the trees don't produce fruit properly.

### YOUR TURN!

Find a plant, then identify the phenophase using the Phenophase Finder at [bit.ly/budburst01](https://bit.ly/budburst01).