

Pronunciation help

Diphthongs (2 vowels pronounced as one)

ae long "e"

oe long "e"

au "aw"

ei long "i"

eu long "u"

ui as in quick

oi "oy" not a diphthong in Latin ,
but traditionally pronounced as one

ie not a diphthong , pronounce both letters

c as "k" and **g** as "goose"

when followed by e,l,y,ae,oe then is "s"

and "j" respectively

ch "k"

x as initial consonant like "z"

elsewhere as "ks"

final e or **es** long "e"

final **a** is short

y short "i"

uu pronounce both ,

first long second short

ph as "f"

Words of two syllables are accented on the first syllable.

The vowel of the first syllable is **long** if followed by **one** consonant (Rosa), **short** if followed by **two or more** consonants (Hosta).

Words of more than two syllables are stressed on the next to last syllable IF the vowel of that syllable is followed by two or more consonants or the vowel is long.

A final vowel is always pronounced fungi FUNJ-eye

More information on syllable accents, vowel length, and other pronunciation rules can be found at www.capewest.com

Say it with conviction

Defer to experts

Remember your goal is COMMUNICATION not perfect pronunciation

Learn a Little Latin

Cheryl Monroe

www.gardenintheburrow.com

Binomial nomenclature:

Genus (italics, capitalized) **species** (italics, lower case) '**cultivar**' not italicized, in single quotes

Clematis viticella 'Betty Corning'

Further classifications:

Subspecies **subsp.** and variety **var.** *Acer palmatum* var. *dissectum*

Interspecific hybrid *Abelia xgrandiflora* a fertile cross between two abelias (*chinensis* and *uniflora*)

Look for descriptive words (color, growth habits, country of origin, cultural information)

Look for familiar root words, suffixes and prefixes

Helpful resources:

Latin for Gardeners Lorraine Harrison

Gardeners Latin A lexicon by Bill Neal

Botanical Latin William T. Stearn

Fine Gardening pronunciation guide www.finegardening.com

The Pronouncing Dictionary of Plant Names (American Nurseryman)

Dave's Garden Botany www.davesgarden.com