Abbreviations and Definitions
By Susan Gallaugher

Deciduous; Evergreen

Deciduous – A plant that sheds all of its leaves at one time of a year (typically observed in the fall).

Evergreen – “A plant that does not shed all of its leaves at one time of a year, instead typically losing a few leaves at a time throughout the year.”

Semi-deciduous – A plant that sheds a large number of leaves at one time of a year, typically in the autumn. (For example, oracle oak is a hybrid).

Stress Deciduous – When a plant is stressed (by too little water, too much heat, wind, cold, or moisture) it may react by dropping its leaves out-of-season.

Summer Deciduous – When a plant drops its leaves during the hot season rather than waiting until winter. (Example, California buckeye Aesculus californica)

Sun:

Full Sun – Plant requires direct sunlight for most of the day.

Part Shade – Plant will do well in dappled shade. Plant will tolerate sun exposure in the morning but must be protected from hot afternoon sun.

Shade – Plant requires full shade. Plant will do best if it never gets direct sun exposure during the hot summer months.

Water:

Very Low – requires deep watering approximately once a month during the dry season.
DE – drought tolerant once established.
XD – drought tolerant once established, but would look and do better with a deep watering approximately once a month during the dry season.

Low – requires deep watering approximately every two weeks during the dry season.

Moderate – (or Medium) requires deep watering approximately once a week during the dry season. Note: no extra water needed during the rainy season.

Regular – is providing a consistent delivery of water that depending on the weather, soil, slope, watering system, and root/watering depth maintains the soil moisture content and does not let plants go without water like drought tolerant plants would be able to.
**Soil Types Tolerated:**

A = alkaline soil  
C = clay soil  
d = well-drained soil  
N = neglect  
P = poor soil  
R = rocky soil  
S = sandy soil  
s = salty soil

**Weather Conditions Tolerated:**

C = cold  
D = drought  
H = heat  
h = humidity  
SF = seasonal flooding  
W = wind

**Bloom Period: W, Sp, Su, F**

W = winter  
Sp = spring  
Su = summer  
Sx = spring and summer  
F = fall/autumn

**Flower Color**

b = black  
B = blue  
i = insignificant  
Mny = many colors  
O = orange  
P = pink  
R = red  
Ro = red-orange  
V = violet  
W = white  
Y = yellow  
Yo = yellow-orange