

## Plant movement vocabulary

- Auxin – A plant hormone that regulates growth by controlling cell elongation and directional responses such as tropisms.
- Gravitropism – Growth response to gravity; roots grow downward, shoots grow upward.
- Heliotropism – Daily turning of plant parts, such as sunflower heads, to follow the sun.
- Mimosa pudica – The “sensitive plant” whose leaves fold rapidly when touched, an example of thigmonasty.
- Nastic movement – A rapid, non-directional movement in plants triggered by stimuli such as touch, light, or temperature.
- Nyctinasty – Daily rhythmic folding and unfolding of leaves or flowers in response to day-night cycles.
- Phototropism – Growth toward light; stems bend toward a light source.
- Polarity – The inherent spatial orientation within a plant, such as root vs. shoot or upper vs. lower leaf surface.
- Pulvini – Swollen structures at the base of leaves or leaflets that control rapid movements by changes in water pressure.
- Statoliths – Starch-filled organelles in plant cells that help detect gravity for gravitropic responses.
- Tendrils – Slender, coiling structures in climbing plants that wrap around supports.
- Thigmotropism – Growth response to touch or contact with a solid object.
- Tropism – Any directional growth response of a plant to an external stimulus.
- Venus flytrap – A carnivorous plant that snaps shut when trigger hairs are touched, an example of rapid nastic movement.
- White mulberry – A tree whose male flowers explosively launch pollen at extreme speeds.