

Classification of Plants

Plants have been classified into different categories.

We now talk about these different categories in some detail.

Trees

Big plants are called **trees**. Their stem is woody and strong. It is called the **trunk**. We see many branches of a tree coming out from the trunk. There are leaves, flowers and fruits on the branches.

Trees give shade to humans and animals. The roots of a tree are very deep. They can, therefore, absorb water from deeper parts of the soil.



Mango Tree



Mango Fruit



Coconut Tree



Coconut Fruit

Banyan, peepal, neem, mango and coconut are some of the trees we see around us.

Trees live for several years, sometimes even hundreds of years.

Shrubs

We often see many plants that have a woody stem, but are not as strong and big as trees. These plants look like bushes with many branches. Such plants are called **shrubs**. Shrubs have smaller stems branching off near the ground.

Do You Know?

Shrubs are plants with multiple stems. They can grow more than 6 metres.

Rose, bougainvillea, cotton, china rose and *mehendi* are some of the shrubs we see around us.

Shrubs live for a few years only.



Rose



Bougainvillea



Cotton

Herbs

Many plants have thin stems which are green in colour and are not woody. Such plants are called **herbs**.

Herbs are generally small in size. They are grown in a particular season. They live only for one or two seasons and produce their flowers, fruits and seeds in this time only. After one or two seasons, they die.



Tomato



Mint



Ladyfinger

Wheat, rice, sunflower, tomato, mint and ladyfinger are some of the herbs that we see around us.

For the Teacher: Highlight the important differences between the colour of the stem for the herbs and the shrubs. Show the available herbs and shrubs to the students.