

**FOSS California Trees Module**  
**Glossary**  
**2007 Edition**

**Adopt:** To take on or assume.

**Adopted:** Taken on or assumed.

**Bark:** The tough outer covering of the stems and roots of trees, shrubs, and other woody plants.

**Big:** Large; not small.

**Bigger:** To become larger.

**Blossom:** A time of development or flowering.

**Branch:** A part of a tree that grows from the stem.

**Broadleaf:** Having relatively broad rather than needle-like or scale-like leaves.

**Bud:** A new growth or swelling on a plant.

**Bumpy:** Covered with lumps.

**Change:** To make or become different.

**Circumference:** The distance around a circle.

**Cone:** A reproductive structure of plants such as conifers.

**Conifer:** Needle-leaved or scale-leaved cone-bearing trees or shrubs such as pines, spruces, and firs.

**Desert:** A hot and dry area of Earth

**Different:** Unlike; not the same.

**Edge:** A rim, border, or dividing line.

**Egg:** A rounded, usually hard-shelled reproductive body from which organisms hatch.

**End bud:** The rapidly multiplying mass of cells at the end of the embryo.

**Evergreen:** A tree, shrub, or plant having foliage that persists and remains green throughout the year.

**Fall:** The time of year between summer and winter when the leaves change color and begin to drop from the trees; autumn.

**Fatter:** To grow wider and heavier.

**Flower:** A part of a plant that has petals.

**Food:** Anything that organisms eat that provides energy and allows them to grow.

**Forcing:** The pushing or pulling that makes something happen.

**Fruit:** Where seeds are found in a plant.

**Growth ring:** An annual formation of wood in plants as they grow.

**Hear:** To listen to somebody or something.

**Heart:** The core of a plant, fruit, or vegetable.

**Height:** How tall something is.

**Leaf:** A part of a tree or plant that grows from the stem.

**Leaf scar:** The mark left on a twig after a leaf falls.

**Line:** A thin, straight mark.

**Little:** Very small.

**Living:** Alive; having life; not dead.

**Lobed:** Having a rounded projection, especially of a body part.

**Lose:** Weak; not tight.

**Matching:** Sharing the same properties; similar.

**Measurement:** The total length, width, height, volume or weight of an object.

**Missing:** To be lost or absent.

**Mountain:** A high and rocky landform

**Needle:** A narrow, stiff leaf, as those of conifers.

**Nut:** A hard-shelled, one-seeded fruit, such as an acorn or hazelnut.

**Observe:** To use all of your senses to gather information about something.

**Ocean:** A body of water.

**Other:** Of a different character or quality; additional.

**Outline:** A line marking the outer boundaries of an object or shape.

**Oval:** Resembling an egg shape; elliptical.

**Overcast:** When the sky is gray and cloudy, but it is not raining or snowing.

**Paddle:** A usually wooden object with flat blade at one end or sometimes at both ends, used to propel a canoe or small boat.

**Partly cloudy:** When it is sunny outside but there are lots of clouds in the sky.

**Pattern:** A design; something used as a model for making things.

**Point:** Where two lines come together to form a sharp end.

**Rainy:** When the sky is cloudy and raining or drizzling.

**Resource:** A naturally occurring material, such as coal or water that can be used by people.

**River:** A body of water than flows into lakes and oceans.

**Root:** A part of a plant that grows in the ground.

**Rough:** Bumpy; not smooth.

**Round:** Circular in shape.

**Rubbing:** A representation of a raised or indented surface made by placing paper over the surface and rubbing the paper gently with a marking agent such as charcoal or chalk.

**Same:** Alike; not different.

**Scale:** A small, thin, usually dry plant structure, such as any of the protective leaves that cover a tree bud or cone.

**Scar:** A mark left after a wound or injury has healed.

**Season:** One of the four natural divisions of the year, spring, summer, fall, and winter.

**See:** To use your eyes to look at something.

**Seed:** A part of a plant from which a new plant can grow.

**Sense:** One of the ways you use to gather information about the world, e.g. smell, sight, touch, taste, hearing.

**Serrated:** Having or forming a row of small sharp projections resembling teeth.

**Shape:** The appearance or form of an object.

**Shell:** A hard, outer covering.

**Shorter:** Smaller in length or height.

**Silhouette:** The outline of a figure or object filled in with black or another solid color; a dark outline seen against a lighter background.

**Size:** How big or small something is.

**Skinnier:** To become thinner, smaller; not fatter.

**Smaller:** Not as large; littler.

**Smell:** To sense an odor with your nose.

**Smooth:** Flat, level; not rough.

**Snowy:** When the sky is cloudy and snow is falling.

**Spear:** A shape like an oval, but with pointed ends.

**Spring:** The season of the year, occurring between winter and summer, during which the weather becomes warmer and plants revive.

**Stem:** A part of a plant that grows up from the roots

**Sunny:** When the weather is bright with few or no clouds.

**Swamp:** A wet area of Earth

**Swollen:** To increase in size due to internal pressure; to bulge out.

**Tip:** The uppermost point; the top.

**Tree:** A plant with a wood stem, roots, and branches with leaves.

**Triangle:** A three-sided shape.

**Trunk:** The main stem of a tree from which braches grow.

**Twig:** A small, leafless branch of a woody plant.

**Valley:** The low land between mountains.

**Weather:** The condition of the air at a given time.

**Wedge:** A piece of material, such as metal or wood, thick at one edge and tapered to a thin edge at the other for insertion in a narrow crevice, used for splitting, tightening, securing, or levering.

**Winter:** The coldest season of the year, occurring between autumn and spring.