## **G**lossary

**Acetylcholine:** An organic chemical that functions in the brain and body of many types of animals, including humans, as a neurotransmitter—a chemical released by nerve cells to send signals to other cells.

**Apomixes:** An asexual reproduction that occurs without fertilization and not involving meiosis (a type of cell division).

**Bronchia's:** The passageways by which air passes through the nose or mouth to the air sacs of the lungs.

**Digoxin:** Is derived from the leaves of a digitalis plant. Digoxin helps make the heart beat stronger and with a more regular rhythm.

Diuretic: A substance which increases the production of urine.

Falling Sickness: An archaic term for epilepsy.

**Histamine:** An organic nitrogen based compound involved in local immune responses as well as regulating physiological function in the gut and acting as a neurotransmitter (chemical messengers), for the uterus.





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**Palsie:** The complete or partial muscle paralysis, often accompanied by loss of sensation and uncontrollable body movements or tremors.

**Red Data Book:** This is a state document established for documenting rare and endangered species of animals, plants and fungi as well as some local sub-species that exist within the territory of the state or country.

**Rhizome:** A continuously growing horizontal underground stem which puts out lateral shoots and adventitious roots at intervals.

**Saponins:** A class of chemical compounds found in various plant species. These compounds produce a soap like foam when added to water and shaken. This mixture can be used to wash hands.

**Serotonin:** An important chemical neurotransmitter in the human body. It is commonly regarded as a chemical that is responsible for maintaining mood balance and the perception of pain.

**Spadix:** A spike of minute flowers closely arranged round a fleshy axis and typically enclosed in a spathe.

**Spathe:** A large sheathing leaf/ flower enclosing the flower cluster of certain plants.

