

Plant Classification 1:

Plants have families too? Yes! Carl Linnaeus (a Swedish botanist from the 18th century) created a system of classification in which every living organism was given two Latin names – a genus name followed by a species name. For example, *Quercus robur* (the common oak tree). This is called the binomial naming system. In the Plant Kingdom, every plant has been classified into two main groups – **vascular** (having roots) or **Non-vascular** (no roots):

- Non-vascular plants (the Bryophyta) are the earliest living plants on our planet. They have no true leaves, stems or roots so cannot transport water and nutrients from the soil. Because of this they cannot grow very big and tend to grow in damp places where they can absorb water. They also do not make seeds but reproduce through spores.
- vascular plants (the Tracheophyta) have roots, leaves and stems and a system for transporting water and nutrients from the soil. This means they can grow much bigger. This group is divided into two further groups – those reproducing with seeds and those reproducing with spores.

This sounds complicated but use the chart below to help you.

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