My Plant Project

Introduction
As young people in the 21st Century, you are not always aware of the plants around you, for several reasons:

1) There are no big-time reality shows about plants
2) High school biology classes often ignore plants and other organisms that lack feet and vertebrae
3) You are too busy texting to look at the plants as you walk across campus.

We are very fortunate to live in a climate that allows us to grow plants from many geographical regions around the world. The purpose of “My Plant Project” is for you to get up close and personal with one of the plants on campus.

You will be assigned a number on the Blackboard site. That number will correlate to a plant name on a list that will be posted on Blackboard. Once you know the scientific name of your plant, you will be able to complete the information below. Information pertaining to your plant can be found in your textbook, on-line, in books, or in journal articles. In addition to completing the questions, you need to include a picture of you next to your plant.

This assignment is due on the last day of lecture and is worth 10% of the course grade. It is graded on the basis of 100 points.

How to succeed
Read and follow the directions. This is not a difficult assignment. Most students who do poorly have either not read or not followed the directions.

Required information
Please follow the example (below) and the template. You must provide ten items of information:

1. **Common name:** Many species have more than one common name, and sometimes a common name can apply to more than one species. There are also common names for genera ("pine"), classes ("fern"), and even phyla ("moss"). A correct answer will be a common name that is used exclusively or primarily for your assigned species. You can include additional common names if there is no single best one.

2. **Family:** Family names always end in –aceae (there are eight exceptions, but they have alternate names ending in –aceae)
3. **Phylum:** Use the phylum names in the textbook. All correct answers will be in this list: Anthocerotophyta, Anthophyta, Bryophyta, Coniferophyta, Cycadophyta, Ginkgophyta, Gnetophyta, Lycopodiophyta, Marchantiophyta, Monilophyta. If your reference gives an alternate phylum name, use the information in the text to assign it to one of these.

4. **Life form:** Your text doesn’t cover life forms in a useful manner. Your answer instead should be taken from the list in [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plant_life-form#Other_categorizations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plant_life-form#Other_categorizations):

   According to the general appearance (habit):
   - Woody plants
     - Trees
     - Shrubs
       - subshrubs
   - Herbaceous plants (herbs)
     - graminoids (grasses and grass-like plants)
   - Other: vines (lianas and nonwoody vines), cushion plants and rosettes, canes and palm-like plants

5. **Phyllotaxis:** In almost every case, the correct answer will be one of these terms, all explained in your text: decussate, distichous, spiral, whorled. The terms opposite and alternate can be used when the phyllotaxis does not clearly fit one of the first four terms. If your references don’t mention phyllotaxis, you can tell by examining the plant.

6. **Where is the species native?** Name one (only) country where your plant grows as a native. Some species will only grow in a single country, and others will grow in many, but only choose one. If you include more than one, the entire answer is wrong.

   In the case of countries with overseas departments, territories, or protectorates, you can include its name in parentheses: United States (Puerto Rico), France (French Guiana), India (Malabar Islands).

7. **Biome:** Name the biome most associated with your species (some species can be found in several biomes, but are most common in one). Use the biome names in Chapter 32 of your text.

8. **Economic importance:** What is the economic importance of your species? If it has no economic importance, mention that.

9. **References:** Online references are vastly preferable to print references—if I have to take the time to go to the library, I’m going to want to find something wrong with your paper. Wikipedia is a good place to start, not only for its information, but also because it has links to other references. (Some instructors prohibit students from using Wikipedia, but for this assignment, I encourage its use; most of the species articles are complete and accurate.) You can also do a web search using Google or another search engine. I will be looking at your references if I find any information that seems doubtful to me.

10. **Photograph:** Attach a photo of you and your plant, either a selfie or have someone else take it (don’t just get a photo off the web; that’s plagiarism and will get you an “F” for the assignment).

Do not submit an assignment in paragraph form—it will not be graded.
**Submitting your assignment**

Go to this course in Blackboard and open the Assignments page. Find My Plant Project and click “View/Complete”. Make sure “Submit:” at the top says “Single File Upload”. Enter the requested information (use the scientific name of your plant as the title), and select your file. Click on the Upload button at the bottom of the form.
**Name:** Curtis Clark

**Species:** *Encelia farinosa*

1. **Common name:** Brittlebush, incienso
2. **Family:** Asteraceae
3. **Phylum:** Anthophyta
4. **Life form:** Shrub (some references say subshrub)
5. **Phyllotaxis:** spiral
6. **Where is the species native?** United States
7. **Biome:** Desert
8. **Economic importance:** Grown as an ornamental, common in freeway plantings in southern California.
10. **Photograph:** [no, I’m not in this photo, but you should be in yours]