

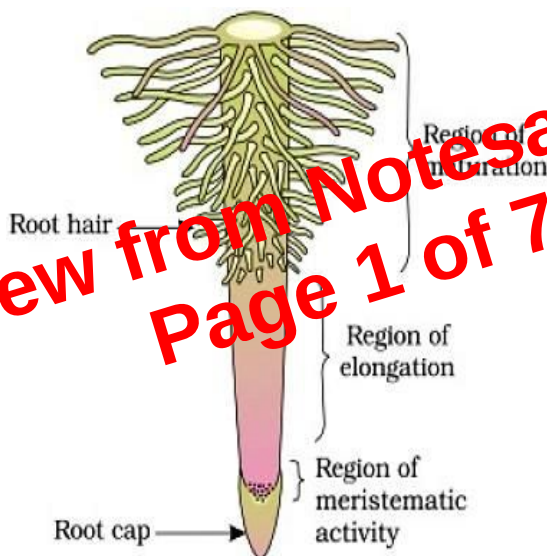
MORPHOLOGY OF FLOWERING PLANTS

Morphology (Gr. *Morphos* = Form; *logos* = Study) is the branch of science which deals with the study of form and structure. In botany, it generally means the study of external features, forms and relative positions of different organs on plants.

Angiospermic or flowering plants show a great variety of shape, size and form. The size ranges from the minute *Wolffia* and *Lamna* (0.1 cm) to the tall *Eucalyptus* (up to 100 metre) and large sized Banyan (*Ficus bengalensis*).

Parts of a flowering plant:

The Root



The root is usually an underground part of the plant which helps in fixation and absorption of water. The root with its branches is known as the root system.

(1) Characteristics of the root

- (i) The root is the descending portion of the plant axis and is positively geotropic.
- (ii) It is non-green or brown in colour.
- (iii) The root is not differentiated into nodes and internodes.
- (iv) As per the rule the root does not bear leaves and true buds.
- (v) Usually the root tip is protected by a root cap.
- (vi) The root bears unicellular root hairs.