



Information Sheet: Identifying Male and Female Plants

Definitions

Calyx Very small oval- or raindrop-shaped organs at the base of the stipules

Petiole Leaf stalk

Pistillate primordia White hairs growing between the nodes and the calyx on female plants

Staminate primordia Small sacs, or “balls,” growing between the nodes on male plants

Stipule Small leaflike appendage at the base of the petiole that looks like two narrow spikes, one on either side of the node

Characteristics

	Male	Female
Calyx	Raised on a small, short stem, and staminate primordia (small sacs, or “balls”) are growing between nodes	Pistillate primordia (two white hairs) are growing between the nodes and the calyx is NOT raised on a small, short stem
Height	Taller and thinner	Shorter and bushier
Leaves	Less near the top	More near the top

Image

