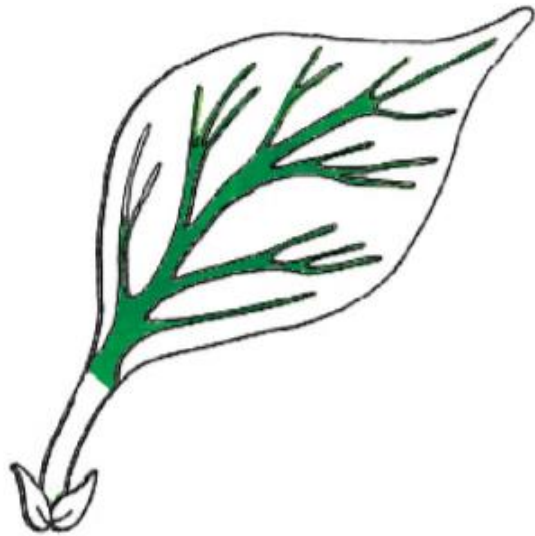




PARTS OF THE LEAF



A ***leaf*** is a laminar expansion of the plant, which grows from the stem. It is veined and usually green in color.



The ***veins*** are the parts of the leaf that function like the veins in the human body. They are made of harder material and function as a support to the softer parts of the leaf, forming a sort of skeleton. The larger veins are therefore also called 'ribs'.

Latin:

vene – vein, tube

costa – rib



The ***blade*** is the lamina or fully expanded part of the leaf.

Middle English:
blad – leaf



The ***petiole*** is the narrow portion that joins the blade to the stem.

Latin:

petiolus – a little foot



The ***stipules*** are the leaflets sometimes found at the base of the petiole, having a lateral position. They may be free or joined together (adnate) or to the stem, or to the petiole.

Latin: *stipula* – stalk