

How to Identify Your Plant

There are many apps for your smart phone that can give you both a common name and botanical name for a plant. However, the app may not be correct or can only partially identify the plant, especially if it cannot “see” the identifying characteristics. Therefore, the positioning of the photograph is crucial.

I personally use Seek, by iNaturalist. It is free and seems to give me the best responses of apps I have tried. However, I have found that if I take a photo first and then apply the app, I get better results, rather than using the camera embedded in the app.

While I cannot personally vouch for the apps below, the website, Hortibiz Daily, lists 9 best plant identification apps for 2020.

Best Free Apps:

1. PlantNet – adds the photo to their database. Can only identify what has already been added to their database, which over 20,000 and growing.
2. iNaturalist – a joint venture with the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society. This app has over 25 million observations and shows you what else has been seen in your area.
3. PlantSnap – has a database of over 500,000 cacti, flowers, ornamentals, and succulents.

Paid Plant Identification Apps:

1. PictureThis – has a free trial period – Has identified 27 million plants and claims 99% accuracy
2. FlowerChecker – actually has a person identify and returns information back to you.
3. Garden Compass – this app also uses a team of experts

Others:

1. Agrobase – more of a farming tool, but can also identify weeds and diseases
2. Plantix – also can help with plant problems
3. What’s That Flower – rather than a photo, you answer questions about the plant to identify it

Other apps I found online include:

1. Planta – include plant care
2. Leafsnap – all thing foliage
3. GardenAnswers – helps to classify plants

Lastly, the Charlotte County Extension Office will answer your questions. Either the staff or a Master Gardener volunteer will answer your question. They are very experienced with most plants found in our area. They can be reached at charlotte@ifas.ufl.edu or 941 764-4340. You can also visit the office at 1120 Centennial Boulevard, Port Charlotte, FL 33953. I suggest you call before going in person, just to make sure there will be someone there to answer your questions.

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