

Hello Trees Resource Sheet

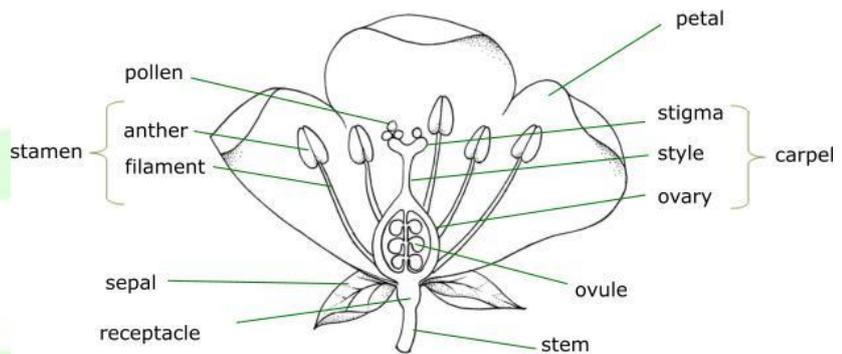


What to think about in Spring Trees: male and female flower parts

For a seed to develop, **pollen** needs to fuse with an **ovule**.

Pollen develops in anthers, and whether it is carried by wind, bird or insect, it has to reach a stigma from which it can burrow to where it can fuse with an ovule.

Pollen is held in **anthers** which are at the tip of stalks called **filaments**. Anther and filament together make up a **stamen**, the male flower.



The pollen needs to fall on to a sticky pad called a **stigma**, held up on a stalk called a **style**.

Pollen that falls on a stigma burrows through the style to fuse with an **ovule** in the **ovary**.

Stigma, style and ovary together are called a **carpel**, the female flower.

A group of carpels together is called a **pistil** – or, again, the female flower.

Flowers with both male and female parts are called **perfect flowers**.

The diagram above is of a perfect flower. Blackthorn, hawthorn, apple, cherry, pear, plum, lime and horsechestnut have perfect flowers.



Blackthorn flower



*Birch tree
male
catkin*

Some trees have separate male and female flowers on the same tree: for example, hazel, beech, birch, oak and alder.

The male flower of all of these particular trees are in catkins: lots of tiny stamens on a slender stem.

Catkins are a series of same-sex flowers arranged in circles round a slender stem.

Female flowers of birch trees are also in the form of a catkin – lots of tiny carpels on a slender stem.

Trees that have separate male and female flowers on the same tree, are **monoecious** trees.

Mono-ecious means one household: one tree for both male and female flowers



*Birch tree
female catkins*

Some trees have male flowers on one tree and female flowers on another tree: for example, willow trees, ash trees and holly trees.

These are called **dioecious** trees. They have two households: one tree for male flowers, another tree for female flowers.

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