Amino Acid: one of the 20 organic molecules that when linked together form proteins in living things.

Biophylia: A term coined to explain the inborn connectedness people feel to nature.

Chromosomes: Strands of DNA found in the nucleus of cells that contain genetic information.

Codon: set of three nucleotides in the molecules of DNA and RNA that codes for a single amino acid in a protein molecule.

DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid): the long molecule found in the nucleus of cells that carries instructions from generation to generation.

Electrons: negatively charged particles surrounding the nucleus of an atom.

Elements: substances that can't be broken down into simpler materials. There are currently 109 known elements.

Enzymes: proteins that speed up chemical reactions essential for building and controlling cells.

Genes: units of heredity that hold and release information for building and controlling cells.

Genetics: the science of heredity and diversity of living things.

Genotype: the genetic basis for the appearance of a living thing.

Hectare: an area equal to 2.47 acres.

Helpful Insects: insects that prey on insect pests, thereby helping crops grow better.

Heredity: the transmission of characteristics from parents to offspring.

Hybrid: an offspring that results from the breeding of two genetically different organisms.

Innate: inborn.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM): term used to describe many activities that help minimize both pest problems with crops and the use of pesticides. Farmers who use IPM may rotate crops, check their fields for signs of insects, or time the use of pesticides precisely to best attack insects, among other practices.

Kingdom: the largest classification category that describes living things. In the five kingdom system, living things are placed into the following kingdoms: Bacteria, Protista, Plantae, Animalia, and Fungi.

Messenger RNA: type of ribonucleic acid (see also Nucleic acids) that provides information to produce a specific protein. Messenger RNA is copied from DNA.
Molecule: Two or more atoms combined.

Nucleic acids: Long molecular strands consisting of nucleotide subunits (DNA or RNA).

Nucleotides: A sub unit of DNA or RNA consisting of a nitrogenous base, a phosphate molecule and a sugar molecule. Thousands of nucleotides are linked to form a DNA or RNA molecule.

Nucleus: The part of the cell that contains genetic material.

Organic Farming: Farming that focuses on enhancing soil fertility and biodiversity and reducing reliance on non-renewable resources and generally does not use synthetic (human-made) pesticides or fertilizers.

Phenotype: How a living thing appears due to its genes and environmental interactions.

Ribosomes: Tiny granules in the cell cytoplasm that are the site of protein synthesis.

Transcription: The copying of genetic information from DNA to RNA.

Transfer RNA: Ribonucleic acids (see also Nucleic acids) that bind to amino acids and help make proteins.

Transgenic: Having received transferred genetic material.

Translation: Conversion of the information on messenger RNA into a protein.

Unintended Consequences: Things that happen that people don’t foresee.