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## Morphology of Flowering Plants

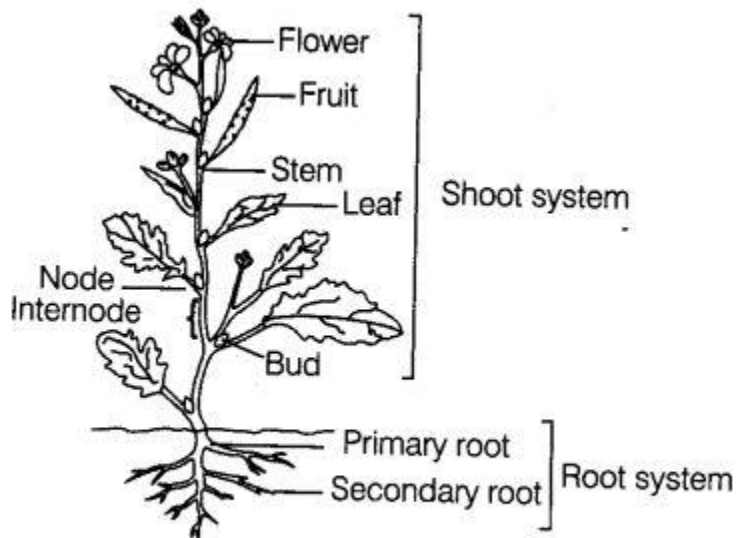
The angiosperms or flowering plants show a large diversity in external structure called as morphology (Gk. Morphe—form; logos—study). However, they all are characterised by the presence of roots, stems, leaves, flowers and fruits.

### 1. Flowering Plants

The plant body consists of a main axis, which may be branched or unbranched bearing lateral appendages.

The main axis is divided into two parts

(i) Root system The underground root system develops from the radicle embryo and helps in fixation of the plant as well as absorption of water and minerals.



**Fig. 5.1** Parts of a flowering plants

(ii) Shoot system The aerial shoot system develops from the plumule embryo.

It contains root, stem, leaves as vegetative parts and flowers, fruits and seeds as reproductive parts. The Vegetative parts are involved in various vegetative functions like structural

organisation, fixation, absorption, nourishment, growth and maintenance of various components and " reproducing parts are for sexual reproduction and germination of new plants.

### **The Root**

In plants, root is the non-green (due to absence of chlorophyll), cylindrical and descending part that normally grows downwards into the soil. It does not bear leaves, buds and not distinguished into nodes and inter nodes.