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BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION OF PLANTS

The plant kingdom is represented only by the higher plants, i.e. Metaphyta (sometimes called Cormophyta or Embryophyta). The most advanced group are the flowering plants, which produce seeds in a seedbox and are called Angiospermae. The angiosperms, to which the great majority of the plants consumed by man belong, are further subdivided into Eudicotyledonae (plants with two seed-leaves or cotyledons) and Monocotyledonae (plants with a single seed-leaf, e.g. palms and grasses). The less advanced Metaphyta are the Gymnospermae (plants with naked seeds, e.g. pines) followed by Pteridophyta (e.g. club-mosses, horsetails and ferns). The most primitive Metaphyta are the Bryophyta (mosses and liverworts). However, the lower Metaphyta are negligible so far as consumption by man is concerned; none of the Bryophyta is used and only a single case is known of the Pteridophyta - the developing fronds of ferns, so-called fiddleheads. And the gymnosperms contribute no more than about eight plant materials used for human consumption: *Zamia floridana*, a cycad, is used for the production of a type of arrowroot from its rhizome, and a