Flavor Descriptors

Everyone working to create a new flavor needs to have a common understanding of the desired flavor profile and the flavors they taste during its creation. This can be difficult since everyone’s perception, expectations and experiences are different. That’s why using words called flavor descriptors is so important to the flavor development process.

The lists of words are simply an agreed upon collection of adjectives which everyone draws from when speaking about the flavor they are tasting or desiring. The lists aren’t meant to be all-inclusive, though. They can help jumpstart your mind to think of other words for what you are tasting. There is no right or wrong word — but descriptor use works best when everyone has a frame of reference for the words being used.

### Banana

**Descriptive Terms**
- Amylacetae
- Brown
- Candy-like
- Cooked
- Creamy
- Diffusive
- Estery
- Floral, Geranium
- Fresh, Sulfidic
- Green
- Mashed
- Pearly
- Pulpy
- Ripe
- Rotten
- Starchy

**Descriptive Types**
- Banana Nut Bread
- Pudding
- Bonomo Taffy
- Circus Peanuts
- Banana Cream Pie
- Puree
- Baby Food
- Crème de Banana

### Blackberry

**Descriptive Terms**
- Astringent
- Earthy
- Freshen
- Fresh
- Jammy
- Juicy
- Musty
- Perfumey
- Seedy
- Sweet
- Woody

**Descriptive Types**
- Jam
- Brandy
- Pie Filling
- Tea

### Blueberry

**Descriptive Terms**
- Berry
- Coolong
- Floral, Linalool
- Fresh
- Fruity
- Green
- Green, Stemmy
- Jammy
- Musky
- Perfumey
- Ripe
- Tart
- Woody

**Descriptive Types**
- Blueberry
- Descriptive Terms
- Cinnamon-like
- Citrus, Citronella
- Cooked
- Floral, Rosy
- Fresh
- Fruity
- Banana
- Green, Aldehydic
- Juicy
- Liqueur Type
- Maraschino
- Medicinal
- Metallic
- Morello, Dark
- Mushy
- Musty
- Pit Type
- Red (Amyl Butyrate)
- Ripe, Bruised
- Sour
- Sweet
- Tart
- Wild
- Winey

### Tobacco

**Descriptive Types**
- Kool-Aid Beverage
- Branded Gelatin
- Bing
- Pie Filling
- Cough Syrup
- Cough Drop
- Maraschino
- Black Cherry
- Sour Cherry
- Morello Cherry
- Queen Anne
- Lifesavers Candy
- Fresh-picked
- Jolly Rancher
- Soda Pop
- Cobbler

### Chocolate

**Descriptive Terms**
- Alkalized
- Astringent
- Acidic, Harsh
- Beany
- Bitter
- Black Cocoa
- Botanical
- Caramelic
- Cocoa Powder
- Coffee, Burnt
- Dairy, Buttery
- Dark Chocolate
- Dirty
- Dutched
- Earthy
- Ethyl Vanillin
- Fatty
- Floral
- Fruity
- Fudgey
- Green
- Hot Chocolate
- Ice Cream
- Liqueur
- Malted Milk Balls
- Malty
- Marshmallow
- Medicinal, Phenolic
- Milky
- Musty
- Nutty
- Oily
- Perfumey
- Pyrazine
- Resinous
- Roasted
- Rosy
- Rubber
- Semi-sweet
- Skunky
- Sour
- Spicy
- Stale
- Sulfidic
- Sweet
- Tea

### Sulfur

**Descriptive Terms**
- Tart
- Sour
- Terpeney

### Green Apple

**Descriptive Terms**
- Acidic
- Astringent
- Bitter
- Butter
- Cooked
- Earthy
- Fresh Fruit
- Fruity, Green
- Juicy
- Leafy
- Mealy
- Peely
- Raw
- Sour
- Tart
- Waxy

### Lemon

**Descriptive Terms**
- Acidic
- Aldehydic, Citral
- Candy-like
- Citral
- Cooked, Pie Filling
- Fleshy
- Floral, Linalool
- Floral, Rosy, Geraniol
- Fresh
- Juicy
- Lemongrass, Green
- Lime
- Over-ripe
- Peely, Rindy
- Seedy
- Sour, Tart
- Sulfdie
- Sweet
- Terpeney, Oxidized, Stale
- Waxy
- Woody

### Grapefruit

**Descriptive Terms**
- Aldehydic, Decanal
- Bitter, Naringin
- Bitter, Orange
- Chemical, Artificial
- Citrusy, Peel Oil
- Dry, Astringent
- Fresh
- Green
- Juicy
- Peely, Nootkatone
- Pungent

### Grapefruit

**Descriptive Types**
- Jolly Rancher Type
- Bubblegum Type
- Granny Smith

### Lemon

**Descriptive Types**
- Bubblegum
- Sour Candy
- Jelly
- Welch's® Juice
- Jam
- Mogen David Wine
- Concord
- Green Seedless
- White Juice
- Red
- Cough Syrup (Dimetapp®)
- Soda Pop
- Popsicle

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**Descriptive Terms**
- Aldehydic, Decanal
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- Bitter, Orange
- Chemical, Artificial
- Citrusy, Peel Oil
- Dry, Astringent
- Fresh
- Green
- Juicy
- Peely, Nootkatone
- Pungent

### Vodka

**Descriptive Terms**
- Boatless
- Branded Gelatin
- Bing
- Pie Filling
- Cough Syrup
- Cough Drop
- Maraschino
- Black Cherry
- Sour Cherry
- Morello Cherry
- Queen Anne
- Lifesavers Candy
- Fresh-picked
- Jolly Rancher
- Soda Pop
- Cobbler

### Grapefruit

**Descriptive Types**
- Devil's Food Cake
- Hershey Bar
- Hershey Syrup
- Milk Shake
- Morsels, Semi-sweet
- Nestlé Quik Oreo® Cookie

### Caramel

**Descriptive Terms**
- Aldehydic, Citral
- Candy-like
- Caramelic, Maltol
- Cool, Frosty
- Diffusive
- Dry
- Floral, Perfumey
- Fresh
- Fruity, Banana
- Green, Seedless
- Jammy, Jelly
- Juicy
- Leafy
- Lemon, Citrus
- Methyl Anthranilate
- Musty
- Purple, Concord
- Ripe
- Seedy
- Sour, Acetic Acid
- Sweet
- Tart
- Vanillin Sweet
- Woody

### Descriptive Types
- Bubblegum
- Sour Candy
- Jelly
- Welch's® Juice
- Jam
- Mogen David Wine
- Concord
- Green Seedless
- White Juice
- Red
- Cough Syrup (Dimetapp®)
- Soda Pop
- Popsicle

### Grapefruit

**Descriptive Terms**
- Aldehydic, Decanal
- Bitter, Naringin
- Bitter, Orange
- Chemical, Artificial
- Citrusy, Peel Oil
### Lime Descriptive Terms
- Acidic
- Juicy
- Fleshy
- Lemon, Citral
- Sweet
- Piney
- Dry, Medicinal
- Oily
- Camphoraceous
- Citrus
- Terpeney, Oxidized
- Floral, Terpinolene
- Peely

### Maple Descriptive Terms
- Acidic
- Alfaalfa
- Anise
- Astringent, Drying
- Balanced
- Botanical
- Bready
- Brown Sugar
- Burnt, Roasted
- Butter
- Butterscotch
- Buttery, Creamy
- Caramelic
- Celery-like
- Chocolate
- Coffee, Roasted
- Corn Syrup
- Cotton Candy
- Floral
- Foenugreek
- Fruity
- Green
- Hay-like
- Herbal
- Honey
- Horehound
- Licorice
- Malty
- Maple Sap
- Marshmallow
- Metallic
- Molasses
- Musty, Mossy
- Nutty
- Perfumey
- Pruney
- Raisin
- Rummy
- Salty
- Smoky
- Sorghum
- Tinfoil
- Tobacco
- Vanilla
- Vanillin
- Weedy
- Yeasty

### Orange Descriptive Terms
- Acidic
- Aldehydic, Fatty
- Bitter Orange
- Citrusy
- Creamy, Cardboardy
- Estery, Chemical
- Fleshy
- Floral, Waxy
- Fresh, Green
- Fruity
- Juicy
- Mandarin, Tangerine
- Oily
- Peely
- Peely, Rindy
- Seed Note
- Sweet
- Tart, Sour
- Terpeney, Oxidized
- Woody

### Raspberry Descriptive Terms
- Acidic
- Butter
- Cherry
- Floral
- Fresh
- Fruity
- Green
- Jammy
- Perfumey
- Ripe
- Rosy
- Seedy
- Soapy
- Sulfurous
- Tart

### Strawberry Descriptive Terms
- Fresh, Mashed
- Sweet Blue Candy-like
- Black Raspberry
- Red Puree
- Liqueur
- Juice
- Branded Gelatin
- Preserves

### Watermelon Descriptive Terms
- Branded Toothpaste
- Breath
- Burning
- Mint
- Eucalyptus
- Peppermint
- Spearmint
- Peppermint
- Fresh, Mashed
- Sweet Blue Candy-like
- Black Raspberry
- Red Puree
- Liqueur
- Juice
- Branded Gelatin
- Preserves

### Descriptive Types
- Creamy
- Confectionary, Slices
- Orange Blossom
- Confectionary, Slices
- Curacao, Triple Sec
- Gelatin
- Fruit Cereal
- Orange Oil
- Grated Peel
- Navel
- Tangelo
- Anisic
- Astringent, Drying
- Balanced
- Botanical
- Bready
- Brown Sugar
- Burnt, Roasted
- Butter
- Butterscotch
- Buttery, Creamy
- Caramelic
- Celery-like
- Chocolate
- Coffee, Roasted
- Corn Syrup
- Cotton Candy
- Floral
- Foenugreek
- Fruity
- Green
- Hay-like
- Herbal
- Honey
- Horehound
- Licorice
- Malty
- Maple Sap
- Marshmallow
- Metallic
- Molasses
- Musty, Mossy
- Nutty
- Perfumey
- Pruney
- Raisin
- Rummy
- Salty
- Smoky
- Sorghum
- Tinfoil
- Tobacco
- Vanilla
- Vanillin
- Weedy
- Yeasty

### Descriptive Types
- Pure Maple Sugar
- Log Cabin®
- Aunt Jemima®
- Aunt Jemima® Lite
- Mrs. Butterworth's®
- Cream Center

### Rice Krispie Treats
- White
- Cake
- Yogurt

### Wintergreen Descriptive Terms
- Aromatic
- Bark, Birch-like Burning
- Camphoraceous Chemical
- Cool
- Fermented
- Floral
- Fragrant
- Fruity
- Grassy
- Green, Rooty Herbal
- Medicinal
- Mentholic
- Methyl Salicylate
- Mint
- Cinnamon
- Tobacco
- Lozenge
- Tic Tac®