Field guides/Plant identification/Regional vegetation ecology


Indispensable if you want to learn wetland plants in western Washington. This book is best for intermediate to advanced botanists, but beginners would find it useful as well. Organized by large plant groups (trees/shrubs/herbs/sedges/etc.) and illustrated with line drawings and some color photographs.


Descriptions of the major vegetation types throughout Oregon and Washington, including photographs and extensive references.


A wintertime key to deciduous trees and shrubs of northwestern Oregon and Washington, including excellent line drawings.


Our regional flora, the one volume field version of the 5-volume set, and the standard for identification of vascular plants in our area. Available at most libraries.


A new field guide to native and naturalized plants of the Seattle area. This book fills in some gaps left by other guides, including the many weeds and other naturalized species found alongside the natives. The majority of the book is species descriptions with line drawings. There are also species lists for different habitat types and recommendations for appropriate wild flower mixes. Includes some typos, and no keys.


A thorough explanation of the natural systems at work in the Puget Sound region, including chapters on hydrology, zones of vegetation, climate, topography and geology as well as terrific illustrations and photographs.


The favorite field guide for many serious and amateur botanists. Impressively thorough in its coverage and includes pointers on distinguishing between similar species. Lots of ethnobotanical information. Illustrated with color photographs and line drawings of nearly every species. Organization is somewhat confusing—by family in some sections, by larger groups in others.


An on-line national plant database, including digital photographs and line drawings as well as propagation protocols for some species. Website: http://plants.usda.gov


A comprehensive field guide including ecological communities, trees, shrubs and flowering plants, as well as insects, amphibians, reptiles and more.

Organizations and journals

Society of Ecological Restoration (SER)

An organization for both professionals and lay-people interested in the science of restoration ecology and its implications in management, education, and culture. Publishes the magazine Restoration Ecology four times a year and the scientific journal Ecological Restoration. Chapter office: (206) 547-9641. Pacific Northwest chapter website: www.sernw.org. E-mail: info@sernw.org
Organizations and journals continued

Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS)
A professional organization for people involved with wetlands delineation, mitigation, and restoration. For more information or membership, phone: 1-800-627-0629. To contact the Pacific Northwest Chapter Website: pnw.sws.org/

Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS)
A non-profit organization dedicated to learning about and protecting our state's native flora. Publishes the quarterly journal Douglasia. Local chapters have field trips, monthly meetings, and newsletters. The members are very friendly and happy to help you learn to identify plants. For information on the chapter nearest you, phone: 1-888-288-8022. Website: www.wnps.org

Native Plants Journal
A new journal intended as a clearinghouse for information on all aspects of growing and planting native plants in the U.S. The articles are well written and cover a wide range of topics. Very attractive, full-color layout. Subscriptions: NPJ, Forest Research Nursery, University of Idaho, Moscow ID 83844. Email: nativeplants@uidaho.edu, Website: www.nativeplantnetwork.org, Phone: 208-885-3305, Fax: 208-885-3301.

Propagation and salvage

On-line database that includes propagation protocols compiled from growers across the nation, searchable by species. Website: www.nativeplantnetwork.org/network/


A terrific how-to guide. Most of the book is devoted to descriptions by species of appearance, habitat, advantages and disadvantages, and propagation and salvage techniques. Also includes descriptions of propagation techniques, commercial sources, and problem plants. Illustrated with line drawings. For a copy, contact: Native Plant Salvage Project, Phone: 360-754-3588 Ext. 110, Email: ericag@coopext.cahe.wsu.edu


Species descriptions, habitat and range, and propagation techniques for a wide selection of natives—mostly from the west coast, but also from the montane regions and east of the Cascades. Minimal line drawings.

Landscape management

A text book that covers physiology of woody plants relevant to horticultural and management practices. Includes new research on planting and fertilizing. Well-written and organized. Illustrated with black and white photographs and drawings. Ideal for those who love technical details.


Choppy text but packed with information. Illuminating photographs—especially of tree cross sections—that demonstrate the results of good and bad techniques in trees stewardship.


The proceedings of an international workshop on tree root development in urban soils.
Selected References & Resources

Landscaping and gardening


The well-known classic on the virtues of native plants as ornamentals, oriented toward the home garden. Extensive discussion by species of gardening merits. Black and white photographs, some color plates, and drawings.


Detailed descriptions of designing gardens and structures for attracting wildlife. Excellent line drawings and some color plates. This book emphasizes design, management, and special features to attract wildlife on your property; most of the information on specific native plants is in Appendix C. Useful for home gardens and larger projects.


More information on how to coexist with 68 different species of animals.


A good overview of gardening with native plants including discussions of ethics, site preparation, species descriptions, and species lists for various habitat types. Not many illustrations. A pleasant read.

Restoration


Recommendations for all aspects of wetland construction projects, including site selection, plans and specifications, construction, maintenance and monitoring.


A classic guide to restoration and management philosophies, written in a colorful narrative. It is helpful as a readable overview to practices and approaches, but not so much as a technical manual.


A guidebook for wetland restoration, planning, and implementation. Contains chapters of planning, site assessment, design, implementation, and monitoring. Somewhat dated, but offers a good overview and introduction for people new to wetland restoration.

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