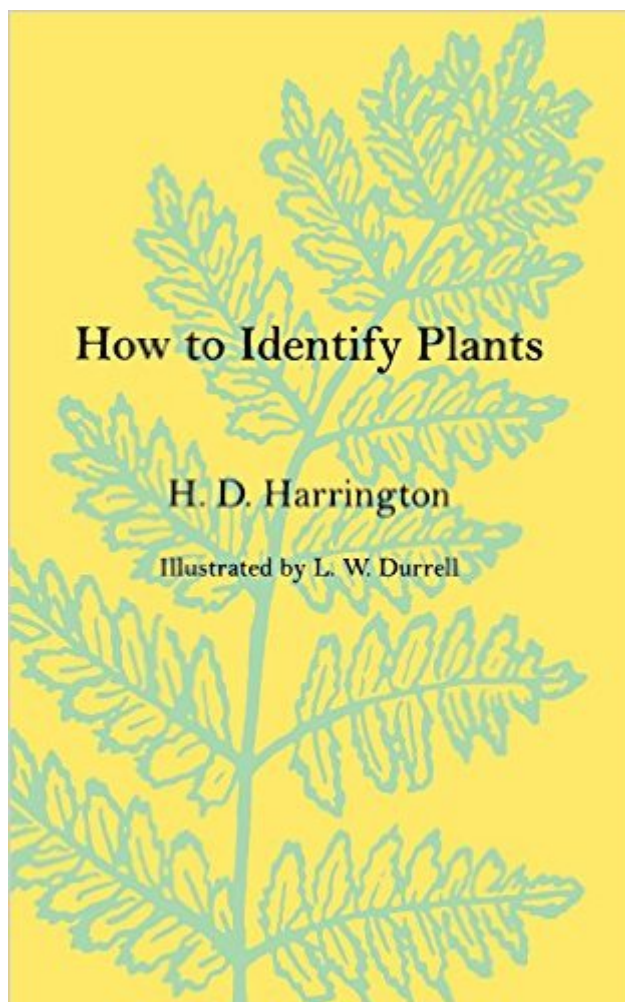


The book was found

How To Identify Plants



Synopsis

First issued in 1957 by Swallow Press, this classic guide to the art of plant identification is now familiar to an entire generation of students. Harrington who was Professor of Botany and Curator of the Herbarium at Colorado State University, gives step-by-step instructions and definitions to help readers recognize and classify plants. The new printing has been reset and reformatted, and L.W. Durrell's drawings and glossary "more than 500 images" have been digitally enhanced for clarity.

Book Information

Paperback: 203 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (17 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

From the copyright date, this book was written in the fifties. The quality of the black and white photos is consistent with this guess, as is the rather pedantic style. There are also chapters on the structure of the nomenclature system, which is probably already well-known by most of the likely readers, and on how to collect plants, which may not be a good idea these days, at least for the rarer species. For \$6 more, I'd go for the similar book by James/Melinda Harris. More focussed; better illustrations; less pedantic style.

I really liked this book and found it very reader-friendly and helpful. So it is not the newest book on the shelves, but that doesn't mean it is not a reliable and very useful resource. I had to buy this book for a class and never sold it back. Since that class I have used countless other guides on the same subject and when friends ask me what is a good starter guide book, with no hesitation I reply with How to Identify Plants by H.D. Harrington. Even today I still go back and reference it when

using other field guides. This book could be in every botanist's collection and makes a great starter for beginners.

I am NOT a botanist by profession but have a strong interest in plants and have worked as a naturalist in a number of National Park Service areas, including Yosemite (YOSE) and Chiricahua Nat'l. Mon., and I do a lot of photography of plants. Being able to ID them in the field using a guide or flora is often necessary for accurate notes. My vocabulary has always been "shaky." I was first introduced to an earlier printing of this book by a fellow naturalist at YOSE, Marilyn H. (I'm forever thankful to her for that!), and it made using "Munz" (the most modern of the CA floras then) easier as the vocabulary in "Munz" was very complete, sometimes painfully so. (I said I was NOT a pro!) It was much easier to use it with "Munz" than by continually going to the back of "Munz" to look up the glossary. Harrington's neat book was not only useful but also easily carried in a day pack or camera bag. What I've just said about that earlier printing is just as valid for this one! The size is slightly different but it still easily fits into both day pack and camera bag. The book is simply a reprinting of the original but now it is readily AVAILABLE again. Some might consider the illustrations simplistic BUT, once reading the definition of a word, you can see the the feature defined is OBVIOUS... that is what I want! Tell me and show me... YES!!! You can tell how much I go to my old copy by how many pages are loose from the binding... hey, I've had it since 1973 and it is an oft-used paperback! In the past, whenever I've seen it in a used bookstore I've bought a copy or two to be given away to friends whose botanical vocabulary needs tweaking, like mine. I love this book, used it very often, and am thrilled that Ohio Univ. Press has reprinted it. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THIS BOOK!

This is a book written for college-level field courses (as well as the independent naturalist). First published in 1957, this is the 1985 edition, so some of it may be out-dated. However, this book contains excellent information about what questions to ask when examining plants and how to use keys. Lots and lots of vocabulary terms are defined, and both common and scientific names of plants are given. I recommend it.

Very helpful for reviewing terms that are used in taxonomic literature devoted to plant identification.

If you're like me, you need this book for class; don't waste money on a new copy, it hasn't changed in half a century (literally). It's mostly just a glossary and any copy will do. I actually recommend an old copy as it will likely have useful notes already jotted down for you.

This book has very detailed descriptions and definitions of the parts of plants used to make an identification, but does not provide an easy way to identify an unknown plant.

The guide is a bit old but goes over basic plant morphology with simple sketches. The book is very systematic and comprehensive. The book should still be of great value to beginning botanists.

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