



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**A PARTIAL LISTING OF PUBLICATIONS
ON TREE AND SHRUB IDENTIFICATION**

**Compiled by Karen P. Bennett,
Extension Professor and Specialist, Forest Resources**

This is not a complete listing of publications available on tree and shrub identification, but rather a compilation from my personal bookshelf. There may be later editions available. Some of the listings are out of print, and that is noted when known. The annotations are my own opinion. Each book has its own strengths and weaknesses. For the serious student, a combination of books of different styles is recommended.



“Helping You Put Knowledge and Research To Work”

The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer. University of New Hampshire, U.S. Department of Agriculture and NH counties cooperating.

Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Trees-Eastern Region by Elbert L. Little

ISBN: 0394507606

Format: Hardcover, 714pp

Edition: 1; June 1980

Publisher: Alfred A. Knopf

Description: Color photographs. Excellent. Covering 364 species. It is organized in several ways: by, for example, the shape of the leaf or needle, by the fruit, by the flower or cone, and by autumn coloration. Following one visible characteristic or another, the reader can narrow the range of possibilities, then turn to a text that describes a tree's physical characteristics, habitat and range.

Eastern Forests: National Audubon Society Nature Guides by Ann Sutton, Myron Sutton

ISBN: 0394731263

Format: Paperback, 638pp

Edition: April 1985

Publisher: Alfred A. Knopf

Description: A comprehensive field guide with color photographs. Covers trees, wildflowers, birds, mammals, and insects. Not in print. Used copies available.

A Field Guide to Eastern Trees: Eastern United States and Canada, including the Midwest by George A. Petrides

ISBN: 0395904552

Format: Paperback; 424pp

Edition: 2nd (April 1998)

Publisher: Houghton, Mifflin Co

Description: Features detailed descriptions of 455 species of trees native to eastern North America.. Excellent illustrations - 48 color plates, 11 black-and-white plates, and 26 text drawings show distinctive details needed for identification. Color photographs and 266 color range maps accompany the species descriptions.

A Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs: Northeastern & North Central United States & Southeastern & South Central Canada by George A. Petrides

ISBN: 039535370X

Format: Paperback, 460pp

Edition: 2nd ; April 1998

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Co.

Description: A classic identification book for the Eastern U.S. that includes shrubs as well as trees. It is the right size to take in the field. The drawings are simple, but clear. The organization of the book takes some time to understand. Uses a dichotomous key approach.

Forest and Thicket: Trees, Shrubs & Wildflowers of Eastern North America by John Eastman

ISBN: 0811730468

Format: Paperback, 224pp

Edition: 1; April 1992

Publisher: Stackpole Books

Description: A "good read" that combines fact and folklore about trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and wildlife of Eastern North America. Not a field guide format.

Forest Trees of Maine by George LaBonte, Douglas A. Stark, and Robley W. Nash

Maine Forestry Department Bulletin #24, Tenth Edition, 96pp.

Description: A handy pamphlet. May be out of print.

Fruit Key and Twig Key to Trees and Shrubs by William M. Harlow

ISBN: 0486205118

Format: Paperback, 126pp

Edition: Nov. 1990

Publisher: Dover Publications

A dichotomous key that also has black and white photographs. Excellent. Fruit key covers 120 deciduous and evergreen species; twig key 160 deciduous species.

A Guide to Nature in Winter (Stokes Nature Guides) by Donald Stokes

ISBN: 0316817236

Format: Hardcover, 374pp

Edition: 1; Oct. 1976

Publisher: Little, Brown and Company

Description: A "good read" that includes information about trees, shrubs, insects, winter weeds, mushrooms, animal tracks and more. Not a field guide format. Not in print. Used copies available .

Harlow and Harrar's Textbook of Dendrology by James Hardin, Donald Leopold, and Fred M. White
ISBN: 0073661716

Format: Paperback, 544pp **Edition:** 9th; (June 8, 2000) **Publisher:** McGraw Hill

Description: A classic textbook, somewhat academic in its approach. Black and white photographs. Gives silvical characteristics as well as identification features. With descriptions of more than 270 species and almost 200 illustrations. In this new edition, material throughout the text has been updated and expanded to provide current information on tree sizes, damaging diseases and insect pests, economic uses and silvics

Important Forest Trees of the United States by Elbert L. Little, Jr.

Format: Paper, 70pp **Edition:** Handbook No. 519 **Publisher:** USDA Forest Service

Description: Very thorough coverage for a pamphlet.

Important Trees of Eastern Forests by R. W. Neelands

Format: Paper, 112pp **Edition:** **Publisher:** USDA Forest Service
Southern Region, Atlanta, GA

Description: Out-of-print, but a handy pamphlet with colored drawings. Includes descriptions of the properties of wood.

Knowing Your Trees by G. H. Collingwood and Warren D. Brush

ISBN: 0685541002(ASIN)

Format: Hardcover **Edition:** Revised(June 1984) **Publisher:** American Forestry Assoc.

Description: Covers all of North America, but not thoroughly. Black and white photographs. Not a field guide format. Interesting reading. Out of print, limited availability.

Knowing Your Woods: Wildlife Habitat and Tree Species by David W. Allan

Format: 8-page fact sheet **Publisher:** UNH Cooperative Extension

Description: An eight-page fact sheet available from UNH Cooperative Extension. Some simple line drawings of selected trees and a listing of their uses by wildlife and humans.

A Natural History of Trees of Eastern and Central North America by Donald Culross Peattie

ISBN: 0395581745

Format: Paperback; 571pp **Edition:** (June 91) **Publisher:** Keats Publishing

Description: A classic of American nature writing. Not really a tree identification book, but invaluable for those interested in American and natural history.

North American Trees by Richard J. Preston and Richard R. Braham

ISBN: 0813815266

Format: Paperback, 548pp **Edition:** 5th; (Dec. 2002) **Publisher:** Iowa State Univ. Press

Description: First published in 1948, this volume intended for the general public and beginning student covers nearly all North American trees excluding Mexico and tropical Florida. Covers the basics of identification, classification, and keys, followed by detailed descriptions, natural history, and black and white line drawings.

The Shrub Identification Book by George W. D. Symonds

ISBN: 0688050409

Format: Paperback; 384pp **Edition:** (Feb. 1973) **Publisher:** William Morrow

Description: Has black and white photographs. A very useful oversized book to be placed on the coffee table. The book is in two parts: pictorial keys and master pages. The keys are designed for visual comparison of details which look alike, narrowing the identification of a shrub to the family or genus. In the master pages, the species of the shrub is determined, with similar details placed together to highlight differences within the family group. Leaves, fruit, and twigs, usually appear in actual size; in the same scale.

Street Tree Fact Sheets by Henry D. Gerhold, Willet N. Wandell, Norman L. Lacasse, and Richard Schein

Format:

Edition:

Publisher:

Description: Includes color photographs of trees and their varieties that are used commonly as shade trees. Gives cultural information. Not really a tree identification book, but can be used to identify those planted trees that are sometimes not found in the native tree identification books.

The Tree Identification Book by George W. D. Symonds

ISBN: 0688050395

Format: Paperback; 272pp

Edition: (Feb. 1973)

Publisher: William Morrow

Format: Hardcover; 272pp

Edition: (Feb. 1977)

Publisher: William Morrow

Description: Has black and white photographs. A very useful oversized book to be placed on the coffee table. The book is in two parts: pictorial keys and master pages. The keys are designed for visual comparison of details which look alike, narrowing the identification of a tree to the family or genus. In the master pages, the species of the tree is determined, with similar details placed together to highlight differences within the family group. Leaves, fruit, and twigs, usually appear in actual size in the same scale.

Trees and Shrubs of New Hampshire by John W. Foster

Format: 110pp

Edition:

Publisher: Society for the Protection of
New Hampshire Forests

Description: Later editions available from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. A small, concise field guide with clear line-drawings.

Trees of North America and Europe by Roger Phillips

ISBN: 0394735412

Format: Paperback; 224pp

Edition: (Oct. 1993)

Publisher: Random House

Description: Beautiful color photographs of mostly leaves, twigs, and flowers. A useful oversized book to be placed on the coffee table.

Trees of the Central Hardwood Forests of North America: An Identification and Cultivation Guide by Donald Joseph Leopold, William C. McComb, and Robert N. Miller

ISBN: 0881924067

Format: Hardcover; 469pp

Edition: (Feb. 1998)

Publisher: Timber Press Inc.

Description: Describes 188 different native and naturalized species, plus 84 trees that are commonly planted in the region. The authors provide information about the tree's habitat, range, physical characteristics (including bark, leaves, and flowers), and wildlife and landscape value. All the descriptions include black and white photographs.

Winter Botany by William Trelease

ISBN: 0486218007

Format: Paperback; 448pp

Edition: (June 1979)

Publisher: Dover Publications

Description: First published in 1918. Very academic descriptions. Of historical interest. Identifies over 1,000 species of vines, shrubs, and trees in winter—most from northern U.S. by examining twigs, bark, buds, leaf scars, berries and other characteristics.