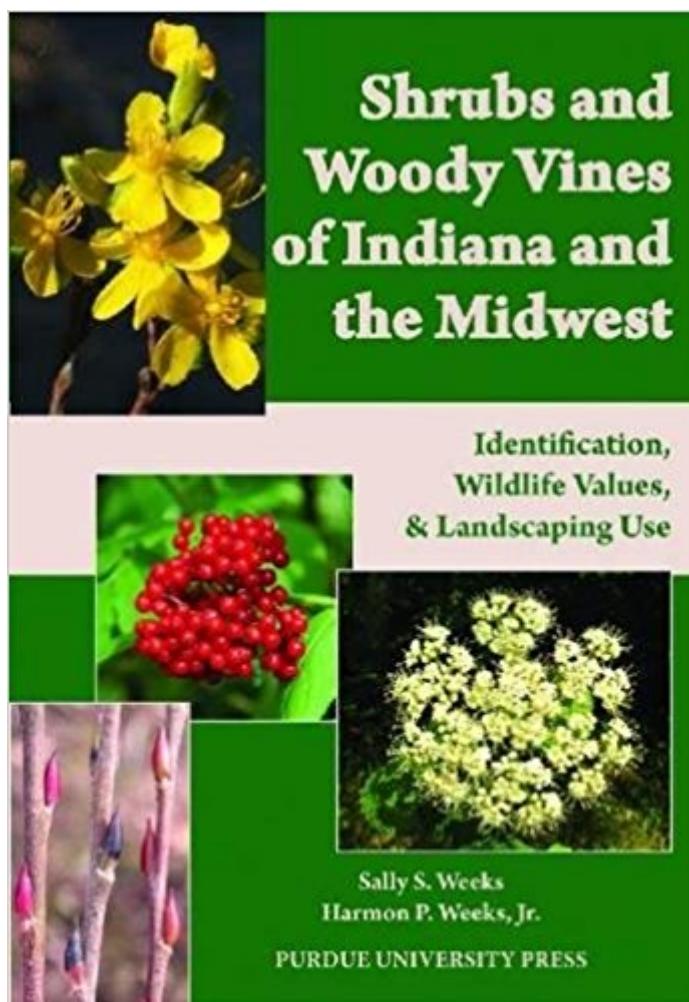


The book was found

Shrubs And Woody Vines Of Indiana And The Midwest: Identification, Wildlife Values, And Landscaping Use



Synopsis

As the definitive identification guide to the shrubs and woody vines of Indiana, this book also provides coverage of 90% of the species to be found in surrounding Midwestern US states. As well as covering indigenous species, it also includes all currently known invasive shrubs. Written by two leading experts in plant taxonomy, the guide is prepared in the same attractive, easy-to-use format as the bestselling Native Trees of the Midwest. Descriptive text explains how to identify every species in any season, and original color photographs taken by Sally Weeks detail all important characteristics. The authors provide practical guidance concerning the potential ornamental value of each species for those interested in landscaping and also evaluate their potential value for encouraging wildlife. Designed for experts in natural resource management as well as the interested general public, the volume includes distribution maps, identification keys, and an index of both common and Latin names.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Herald Times [Bloomington, Indiana; May 5, 2012; by Bob Baird]It was refreshing to run into a naturalist who knows her stuff and backs it up with a definitive volume with more than 1,000 color plates (her own) of leaves, stems, flowers, berries and landscape settings of shrubs and woody vines native to Indiana and surrounding states. Sally proved to be a personable, knowledgeable speaker who doesn't drift into horticultural babble. Her writing style is equally fresh and engaging. Besides identifying my mystery shrub, she and husband Mick, a retired Purdue wildlife

biologist, brought wonderful insights to our neck of the woods. Indiana Native Plant and Wildlife Society [Indianapolis, Indiana; Vol. 19, No. 2, Summer 2012; by Barbara Plampin, Ph.D., field botanist, and Life Director of the Shirley Heinze Land Trust] This book makes identification as easy as it gets. The authors combine original keys and easy-to-use classifications in the table of contents with abundant gorgeous color photographs. The dedicated authors have created a field guide for the Midwest, focusing on desirable native shrubs and vines for the landscape. "Our personal landscaping goals have always revolved around attracting wildlife to the area and improving the landscape from an aesthetic as well as a diversity standpoint." They point out that these native plants are not only hardy, but also have many attractive characteristics. An illustrated glossary introduces readers to the particular plant parts that differentiate species. The plant directory is first divided into sections covering native versus introduced plants; these, in turn, are further divided by type. Summer and winter key guides assist the reader. Narrative passages for individual species include such characteristics as form and size, habitat, wildlife use, and landscaping value. Photographs of high clarity, locator maps, and tips on similar species are additional aids in identification. • Marilyn K. Alaimo, garden writer and volunteer, Chicago Botanic Garden. This book is a wonderful marriage of information for both horticulturalists and those whose background is primarily in wildlife and forestry, the same background as Sally Weeks and Harmon Weeks, longtime educators at Purdue. Sally Weeks states in the preface that "our personal landscaping goals have always revolved around attracting wildlife to the area and improving the landscape from an aesthetic as well as a diversity standpoint." The book's content clearly reflects these ideas. The volume is divided into four main sections: "Native Shrubs," "Native Vines," "Introduced Shrubs," and "Introduced Vines." Every entry includes scientific/common names along with three to eight excellent photographs, a detailed range map, and a note regarding distinctions between similar species. Flowers and fruits are very good identifiers for plants, but are not typically present in the off-seasons (early spring, late fall, and winter). This book includes helpful photos of bark and terminal buds as well as form and size descriptions. An extensive index, a list of native-plant nurseries, and a dichotomous key support the text. Given the book's size, it may be considered a little heavy for field use, but the value of the content makes it worth taking along. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Regional collections serving all general, academic, and professional audiences. --C. M Caretta, Rochester College (CHOICE)

Sally S. Weeks was born and grew up on a dairy farm near Winamac, Indiana. She received a BS in wildlife management and a MS in forestry from Purdue's Department of Forestry and Natural

Resources, where she now teaches tree and shrub identification. Harmon P. Weeks Jr. is a professor of wildlife science in forestry and natural resources at Purdue University and has taught habitat management for over thirty years. Michael Homoya is state botanist for the Indiana Division of Nature Preserves, holds two degrees in botany from Southern Illinois University, and is renowned for his knowledge of Midwestern flora.

Overall, this book is great. Its filled with diagnostic photos of various features of many species of shrubs. Each species description covers a full spread of two pages so there is plenty of room for both detailed text and numerous images, including a range map focused on the midwest showing the county distribution for each species. This layout is excellent, and I expect it will be the standard for similar field guides in the future. Now that we're in the age of modern printing, we can largely leave the dusty old dichotomous keys behind. While a key is included in this book, I certainly find I have much better results identifying plants with visual (or tactile) characteristics, and the large number of high quality, detailed images in this book will certainly work well with the way my brain works. I was especially happy to see that there is "Wildlife Uses" information for each species, as this sort of information always helps illustrate the importance of our wild plants in the natural community. More importantly, the "Landscaping Value" information for each species encourages people to think about how we could use these plants in our human landscape. If we are to preserve the diversity of our region over time, it is essential that we begin to include these native plants more in our human environments. This book does have some weaknesses however. Their treatment of some genera is limited. They only include about half of the roses and blackberry species for example. Though they make this clear in their introduction to the genus, it could cause some confusion and misidentification for the end users. For the hawthorns, they don't even try at all, and basically say that 'these are too complicated for us to deal with'. Indeed this is a tough genus to crack, but its exactly the kind of information I was really hoping for when I made this purchase. Another area of weakness is how they deal with non-native shrubs. Since (sadly) the majority of shrubs in our natural areas are non-native, this is an important group to deal with. Non-native plants are relegated to a short section at the end of the book, so if you're in the field thumbing through to find a species that visually matches the plant in front of you, you have to somehow know its non-native in order to go look for it in the back. For example, the two native buckthorns and the two invasive buckthorn species are 200 pages apart! The coverage of non-native woody plants is limited, page 399 is simply a list of some 20 non-native shrubs and vines that should have been explored in more detail, and I can think of at least a few that are common on

the landscape or ecologically important that should have been included in this book in detail. And one last nitpick on this subject; I was hoping to find some clarification between the invasive European highbush cranberry and the rare native American highbush cranberry here, but instead they confuse the matter considerably to the point that it would completely misguide anyone trying to identify them in the field, or anyone looking to use native shrubs in their landscape. Despite these limitations, I'm going to give this book 4 out of 5 stars for the great layout and detailed information. I'm hoping that the authors keep working on this book, and can provide a more comprehensive and accurate second edition.

This work is very complete. Species are easy to find; they are shown as they look throughout the seasons, in their many parts, such as bark, leaves, flowers and fruits, Pictures are abundant and beautiful. I recommend this guide for anyone who wants to learn about shrubs and vines of the Midwest.

Book comes loaded with identification features and wonderful images, making it detailed yet concise. Perfect for a beginner who wants to know what a shrub is in their yard, a field reference guide for the professional, or someone studying dendrology. Her guide to Trees of Indiana and the Midwest is also just as amazing.

Excellent field guid for anyone interested in shrubs of Indiana or any of the adjacent states. It is inclusive, contains great photos, and also has excellent keys in the back.

This book is the best book I have used so far for finding information on shrubs and vines. Some of its great features include quick IDs of trees, and how to tell the difference between similar shrubs and vines.

This is an excellent book filled with useful information and practical identification tips. It is difficult to find good resources for shrub identification (unlike trees and wildflowers), so this book is especially useful.

Perfect identification book!

Helpful, well written and full of excellent photography. A MUST in any naturalist or landscaper's

library. I highly recommend this book for anyone interested in local Midwest flora.

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