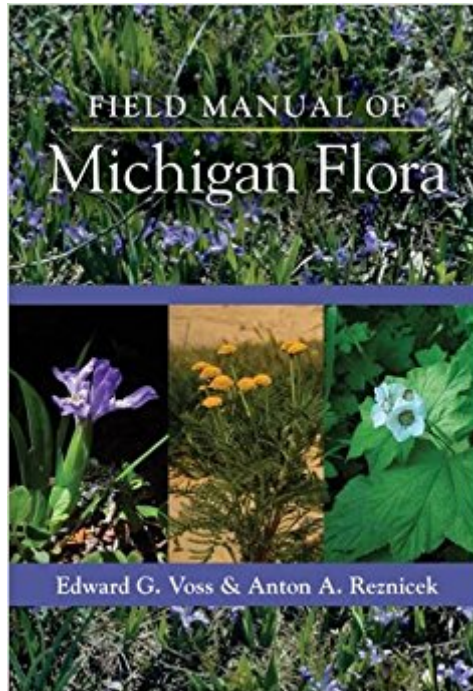


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Field Manual Of Michigan Flora



Synopsis

Field Manual of Michigan Flora is the most up-to-date guide available for all seed plants growing wild in Michigan. Significantly expanding and updating the three-volume Michigan Flora, the book incorporates the discoveries of numerous additional species, recent systematic research, and a vast trove of new information on the shifting distributions of Michigan species. It presents concise identification keys, information about habitats, and completely updated distribution maps for all the seed plants, native or naturalized, that have been recorded from the state, fully treating over 2,700 species. All non-native species are included with notes on their first discovery in the state and comments on invasive tendencies. Rare native species that appear to be declining or to have shrinking ranges are also noted. This book is an essential reference for anyone interested in appreciating Michigan's natural heritage and understanding our ever-changing environment.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The new Field Manual of Michigan Flora summarizes much information about all the species of vascular plant in Michigan and provides dichotomous keys to help readers identify unknown plants. Th guide updates and improves on Voss's three-volume Michigan Flora (1972-96). Highly recommended." —A. Prather, Choice' (A. Prather Choice 2013-03-14)

Edward G. Voss and Anton A. Reznicek are world-renowned experts in plant systematics in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Michigan. Voss is Curator Emeritus of Vascular Plants and Reznicek is Curator of Vascular Plants at the University Herbarium.

I bought this book to use in conjunction with a grouse hunting book I'm currently reading, for the purpose of identifying certain plants referenced in the grouse hunting book. Perhaps it is just me, but the title of the book (using the terms "field manual") and the cover (having nice colored photos of plants) led me to believe this was a book filled with colored photos and explain lagoons of Michigan plants; however, it is not. There are no pictures in this book. It appears to be extremely detailed however, likely aimed at the very dedicated or experienced botanist. I might just keep it for reference, but, unfortunately, it does not serve my original intended purchase. The way the title and cover misled me left me docking it one star, but I must note that I did not read this book, so I know nothing of the contents or substance.

The positives: +Updated nomenclature and species concepts. Can replace the use of the Gleason and Cronquist manual in the Great Lakes region for the most part, since it covers most of the species in the adjacent states. +Alphabetically arranged by family then genus after an initial arrangement into gymnosperms, monocots, and dicots. Makes it easy to find things. +Updated Michigan distribution maps, including elimination of species previously misidentified +Excellent nested indented keys. I already used in the field this spring, and it proved to get me the names with ease. +Excellent concise statements of habitat and when a species was first documented in the state
The negatives: -Where are the ferns? A little disappointing, but the online treatment (at UofM herbarium website) includes maps and keys to all Michigan ferns and fern allies. While this treatment succeeds in consolidating the three original volumes of Michigan Flora into one, the addition of ferns would still require a second volume. Finally, I should note that the volume is still meant for someone with a little technical savvy in plant identification as opposed to a novice wildflower enthusiast; there are no illustrations. Not a negative, but just to clarify what you're getting into.

Field Manual of Michigan Flora is a one volume compilation and updating of the original three volumes of Michigan Flora, which were published over a 40 year period and represent the lifetime work of the late Professor Ed Voss. Dr. Reznicek, who co-authored this edition, is a superb botanist and taxonomist in his own right. In my opinion, the most outstanding feature of this flora is that it is based on careful examination of hundreds of thousands of herbarium specimens, supplemented by decades of field experience. The results are some of the best dichotomous keys for identifying plants that I have ever used, along with unusually reliable maps showing the range of each native

and naturalized species within the state. The keys do require some basic knowledge of the nomenclature for the taxonomic features of the relevant genus or family, and there are no photographs or line drawings of any species, so the casual naturalist should be forewarned. There are plenty of alternative field guides for people who prefer to identify plants by matching pictures, but this flora should be your first choice if you wish to identify any seed plant growing wild in Michigan.

If you are interested in the native range of a plant by country, it is well worth the purchase. There is a map with each country marked where it has been found. Information is given if the plants were likely escaped from cultivation. It also gives some cultural info like grows in swallow water, fens, or maple beech woodlands. One thing it is lacking is a list of generally found plant associates. It gives extra information on identifying the plant when there is a similar plant in the area, or may mention what it could be confused with. Gives information on hybrids too. This is a good reference book for helping get a better understanding of what grows where and some insight into how to manage your land.

Field Manual of Michigan Flora (E. G. Voss and A. A. Reznicek) is a recent (2012) update to the earlier three-volume set "Michigan Flora," by the same authors. At nearly 1000 pages, this hardbound book is a bit hefty to be called a "field manual," but it is an essential reference work for anyone seriously interested in the botany of Michigan or the upper Midwest. It is not a beginner's guide; there are no photographs and the treatments are terse and jargon-filled. The content is mostly keys, distributional dot maps, and range and habitat information. Additional descriptive information is provided for many species, though this is not general and is often lacking. Information updated from the earlier work includes phylogeny and circumscriptions, species included in (and excluded from) the flora, and dot maps. The book is printed on quality paper with a good binding. For those having the necessary background it is an excellent value.

I'm sure this is a must have if you're a professional botanist. I would not get this if you are looking for a good in the field plant ID guide. This text book sized tome is more suited to keying out plants in the lab than in the outdoor settings I prefer. I think this is the only field guide I have ever seen that has no pictures or photos of the plants it describes.

How can you go wrong with a flora book at this price? Reznicek is the authority for *Carex* in North

America. For that reason alone this book is worth having. If he says that is what it is, you can count on it. Both Voss and Reznicek were and are pre-eminent in their chosen professions. Interested in plants? Live in the mid-west? You should have this book. Disappointments: no illustrations or ferns.

I'm in PA but most of our plants are the same. The keys are MUCH easier to use. This book was recommended to me by a botany curator for my internship. Also, it's easily used in the field. I have Plants of Pennsylvania, but this book is definitely my workhorse. Yeah the lack of ferns is a disappointment....it would be nice to have illustrations but for the price....I'm not complaining.

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