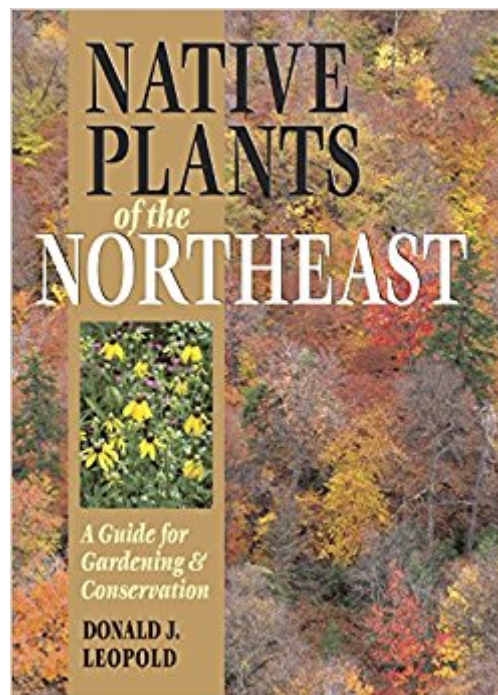




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# Native Plants Of The Northeast: A Guide For Gardening And Conservation



## Synopsis

If you've always wanted to garden with native plants, this book is for you. With entries for nearly 700 species of native trees, shrubs, vines, ferns, grasses, and wildflowers from the northeastern quarter of the U.S. and eastern Canada, its comprehensive horticultural coverage is unsurpassed by any other single volume. The natural ranges of many of the plants discussed extend beyond the Northeast; the information on horticultural uses applies to any garden. Each plant description includes information about cultivation and propagation, ranges, and hardiness. An appendix recommends particular plants for difficult situations, as well as attracting butterflies, hummingbirds, and other wildlife. Illustrated throughout with color photographs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Northeast of the title refers to the northeastern quarter of the U.S and all of eastern Canada. Leopold lists nearly 700 species of native trees, shrubs, vines, ferns, grasses, and wildflowers. Illustrated with 500 color photographs, his guide provides detailed information on each plant's cultivation and propagation, height, color, natural range, and hardiness. An appendix recommends particular plants that tolerate wet and dry soil and attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and mammals such as deer, opossums, and raccoons. George Cohen  
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“An important resource for enthusiasts interested in gaining practical insight about

gardening with native plants as well as those seeking to restore native plant habitats or enhance biodiversity.

- Library Journal – “An encyclopedia of experience.
- The Washington Post – “Provides an invaluable resource for using natives in the landscape and restoration projects.
- American Gardener – “The text is easy to read, both regarding the printing and the writing. . . . This is a very good, well written book and well worth the price.
- Washington Gardener – “A welcome addition to my growing collection of books that list plants. . . . Generously illustrated. . . . Forthright, warts-and-all descriptions are common throughout.
- Garden Rant – “Essential for anyone interested in gardening with native plants as well as those who need horticultural information for habitat restoration.
- Plant Talk – “This is a wonderful book that anyone interested in improving backyards, gardens, and other small stopover areas with native vegetation will want to have handy as an essential reference.
- International Hawkwatcher – “The descriptions include pithy recommendations on cultivation, especially with regard to appropriate habitats.
- HortIdeas – “The color photographs (and there are lots of them) are by the author and very well done.
- Home Monthly – “This book will interest readers who, regardless of their educational background, wish to learn about using native plants for gardening.
- Choice – “It is a must-have for any gardener wishing to learn more about indigenous plants and interested in preserving the balance of native plants on their property.
- Bangor Daily News – “In addition to the alphabetical categorical listing, appendices list plants grouped according to cultural requirements, giving you a jump start on planning a garden for your particular soil requirements.
- Cleveland Plain Dealer

This is a great reference for anyone interested in knowing what’s growing in naturally in the northeast. Native plants are so often dismissed as “weeds” but Leopold brings out their best features and shows they as the desirable beauties they are. The write-ups of the plants are concise and clear and include notes about soil and light conditions as well as propagation. The beautiful photos are excellent for plant identification although it would be better if there were more than one photo for each plant showing not just the flower but also more of the leaves, especially before the flower emerges. I would give the book 5 stars except that I have found that not every plant has a photo with its description. This makes it hard to flip through looking at photos to identify something you have found growing. But for the plants that have photos and descriptions, this is an excellent

starting point for researching the natives.

The book is very good. It has lots of pictures and provides both common and botanical names. The author also provides narrative on his favorite native plant species and his notes provide good details that you might not find elsewhere.

It has helped me a lot with I.D.ing plants around my city. I'm propagating native trees to replace ones that have been cut down due to powerline hazards. This book has the regional trees, so I can still I.D. non-native to CT ones, and it has a shrub category so I can I.D. the almost-tree sized plants that are also useful for replacing the tall trees. I wish that the book had leaf photos for every tree, but I can still use it well.

This is an absolutely wonderful book on native plants of New England. It has just about every native plant I've ever heard of, with beautiful pictures, detailed descriptions, useful information. Every plant has the zones it will grow in, soil preferred (including moisture - very useful!) and the light the plant will tolerate. In addition, it describes the plant attributes, how to propagate, the natural range of the plant, and most plants have specific cultivars picked out as superior, and sometimes what roles the plant plays in the ecosystem. Almost every plant has a photograph. Incredibly useful. I love how the book is organized - by type of plant (fern, grass, shrub, tree, vine, etc), then by latin name. There's a comprehensive index if you don't know the latin name. Also incredibly useful is the set of lists in the back - plants that tolerate wet soil, plants for dry soil, plants that tolerate shade, plants for butterflies and hummingbirds, plants with fruits for birds, plants with fruits for mammals - all organized by the light tolerance of the plant and plant type. Also useful was the introduction, which describes the different kinds of plant communities. There are more detailed reference books out there, but as far as a good reference for the ordinary gardener, with COLOR pictures, this is the best!

If you live in the Northeast and want to have an all or mostly native garden, or even just some native plants, this is the book to get. I've been planting herbaceous and woody plants to attract birds, and have only recently discovered the benefits, to myself, the birds, and the environment, of going native. While a lot of this information can be pieced together from other books or the Internet, this is an easy-to-use, all-in-one reference for all types of plants, not just flowers, that make up a well-rounded garden and animal habitat. Way more than a "seed catalog", this book tells you what ecological niche the plant is native to, the conditions of sun, moisture, and soil it needs, how to

propagate seeds, and a paragraph of "notes" with interesting personal observations by the author. There is also a lengthy and fascinating introductory chapter describing some of the many types of plant environments that exist in the NE, and the reasons to go native. I own 10 books on trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses, gardening for birds, and general gardening, but am buying this one because it tells me exactly what I need to know about all of the above, using plants that grew in the Northeast before Europeans arrived.

Beautiful book. Organized perfectly for referencing the information for the serious gardener.

One of the primary botanical references for ecological landscaping (which is primarily based on native species), for wildlife habitat restoration, and for other features like rain gardens or butterfly gardens. A key reference for my library.

This book is a must for landscape architects and anyone involved highway beautification. It is also an excellent book for anyone looking to plant more of our beautiful native plants and eliminate non-natives on their land. Nearly every plant description is paired with a full color photo of the plant in its natural state. Although this book is primarily designed for the Northeast, it is also good for the Southeast and parts of the Midwest. I would only make one suggestion to the author if he gets the chance to do a reprint; please include a section on the nuisance plants - poison ivy, poison sumac, stinging nettle, and the like. They may not be of use to many, but there are many of us that would like to find out more about them.

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