

Spring 2011

Review of *620 Wild Plants of North America: Fully Illustrated*. By Tom Reaume.

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Leoschke, Mark J., "Review of *620 Wild Plants of North America: Fully Illustrated*. By Tom Reaume." (2011). *Great Plains Research: A Journal of Natural and Social Sciences*. 1172.

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**620 Wild Plants of North America: Fully Illustrated.**  
By Tom Reaume. Regina, SK: Canadian Plains Research  
Center, University of Regina, 2009. 784 pp. Maps, illus-  
trations, glossary, references, index. C\$80.00 cloth.

Beautifully and profusely illustrated with the au-  
thor's black-and-white drawings, the 12-year project that

became this book shows his love for plants. Tom Reaume focuses on a representative selection of primarily native vascular plants of the Great Plains of Canada and the northern United States found in forests, lakes, prairies, rivers, and wetlands. The book appears to be designed as a supplement for an introductory course in plant taxonomy.

The volume is well organized, making it easy for the beginning botanist as well as professionals to find a family, genus, or species of interest. After an introduction, the main text is divided into three major groups: Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, and Angiosperms; Angiosperms are subdivided into Dicotyledons and Monocotyledons. Within each subgroup families are arranged alphabetically, and within each family alphabetically by genus and species. There are 89 plant families represented by at least one species. The 17 largest plant families have a "Family Characteristics" page highlighting, with illustrations, characters that help identify that family. Each species has a detailed profile. For Angiosperms this includes a sketch (basic description of the plant and its habitat); extensive descriptions of the flowers, fruit, leaves and stem; and labeled illustrations of the plant, plus its various reproductive and vegetative structures. There is a distribution map centered on the Great Plains for each species, and synonyms are given for many species. The book also provides a large reference section, a glossary, and an index of both common and scientific names.

The richly detailed and numerous illustrations are much appreciated since some floras recycle older illustrations or limit or forgo them owing to constraints of funds and space. Reaume has made a commendable effort in gathering information from numerous sources to compose detailed distribution maps for each species. There are some omissions—for instance swamp thistle and hairy wood-rush occur in Iowa. Thirty-four species of *Carex* are covered, which is impressive since many selective regional floras like this book include only a few species in this genus, or none.

This book is a useful reference for those interested in the flora of the northern Great Plains and adjacent regions. I highly recommend it for college and university libraries where botany and biological illustration classes are taught on campus. The accurate, beautiful, and profuse illustrations are worth the price of the book by themselves. **Mark J. Leoschke**, *Wildlife Bureau, Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines, Iowa*.