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**Review of *Prairie Wildflowers: An illustrated manual of species suitable for cultivation and grassland restoration* By R. Currah, A. Smreciu, and M. Van Dyk**

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*Prairie Wildflowers: An illustrated manual of species suitable for cultivation and grassland restoration.* By R. Currah, A. Smreciu, and M. Van Dyk. Edmonton, Alta.: Friends of the Devonian Botanic Garden, 1983. Illustrations, indexes, appendixes, references. 290 pp.

In recent years, perhaps because of the dwindling virgin prairie in North America, there has been increased public interest in prairie restoration and the cultivation of native species. However, readily accessible information concerning the germination and propagation requirements of many prairie plants, especially the nongrass species or the so-called "wildflowers,"

has been limited. *Prairie Wildflowers* is a synthesis of three years of study on the horticultural suitability of more than 140 species of native forbs and shrubs by the University of Alberta Devonian Botanic Garden.

For each species examined, information is given on botanical characteristics (growth habit; flower, fruit, and seed characteristics; and phenology), ecological aspects (habitat and soil preference, mycorrhizal association, and distribution), and propagation techniques (germination requirements and vegetative propagation methods). Excellent line drawings accompany most species descriptions and aid in identification. Unfortunately seed and fruit illustrations are not included, though the authors do provide a list of references for each species where additional taxonomic and/or illustrative information can be found. A particularly nice feature is the inclusion of the names and addresses of U.S. and Canadian seed suppliers when seed is commercially available.

While the emphasis of this manual is on plants native to southern Alberta, many of the species that are described here are common inhabitants of prairies throughout North America. *Prairie Wildflowers* should thus serve as a valuable and convenient reference for all prairie enthusiasts, in addition to those involved in prairie revegetation projects, landscaping, and native gardening.

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