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Winter Tree Finder: A Manual For Identifying Deciduous Trees In Winter (Eastern US) (Nature Study Guides)



Synopsis

Enjoy getting to know your trees even in winter, with this key to identifying deciduous trees (trees that lose their leaves in the winter) by looking at twigs, buds, fruits, and other features. Explains structure of twigs and shows habitat and range of native and some widely introduced trees. Illustrated with the author's line drawings.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A great take-along on winter hikes. The "finder" guides can be hard to find, but these easy-to-use, notebook-size illustrated keys to flowers, trees, ferns, tracks, and more are worth the search. -- Terry Krautwurst, in Backpacker Magazine, September 1999
An excellent and inexpensive pocket-sized key to winter identification. -- Denise Ellsworth, Akron Beacon Journal, Feb. 12, 2000
This is an excellent and inexpensive pocket-sized key to winter identification. -- Akron Beacon Journal, February 12, 2000
Winter Tree Finder has been my bible for as long as it's been available. It fits easily into your hip pocket and contains wonderfully clear illustrations showing the branch pattern, bud shape, fruit, and appearance of all the major midwestern and eastern tree species. You can find more comprehensive tree books, but not one that better combines breadth and utility. It's a terrific book to have when you're examining your new woods. Better still, this volume is only the tip of the iceberg. Nature Study Guild also publishes four tree finder books. . .divided by region, not to mention more than a dozen guides to wildflowers, ferns, berries, mammals, and even a Winter Weed Finder. -- William Bryant Logan, in Garden Design Magazine, February 1995
Winter tree walk:

It's easiest to identify trees by their leaves, but equipped with a good key like May Watts' Winter Tree Finder, you will quickly learn the dozen species that dominate any given tree stand. Start with evergreens (use Watts' Tree Finder), since there are so few species and their distinctive leaves make identification easy. -- Susan Eschbach, in *The Conservationist*, February 1995

Generally, it's difficult to identify many trees in the winter when the leaves are gone, but this little guide really helps to make it easier. The guide covers deciduous trees east of the Rockies and is easy to use. The book takes you step-by-step through a pretty thorough identification process. You start by examining a twig from the tree you'd like to identify and work through a flowchart with drawings of the features including buds, thorns, berries, scars, size, bark, and characteristic locations. The charts are easy to follow, but some basic familiarity with the trees you are looking at really helps. The beginning chapter narrows down the types of trees and the type of terrain where they normally can be found and even though the illustrations are hand drawn, they are truly representative of the key features needed for identification. The index in the back covers both the common names and the Latin names. Overall, a very handy book. It is 4"x6" and easily fits into my winter jacket pocket... and it's well-thumbed.

On a 'Winter Tree ID Hike' at a local nature center, we were given this book to use as a reference. We practiced it & found that we could all easily identify trees with it - but it did take some time to READ, COMPREHEND & PRACTICE before we were all proficient. Some took a little longer &, in every case, it was because they tried to short cut the process. So if you're having trouble using it, go back & re-read. It's really quite easy, once you get the hang of it. For such a small book, it packs a lot of trees into it - Eastern North America only. You won't find hybrids, some imports (garden) trees, but it packs in over 100 common trees & can lead anyone into a quick, accurate identification with very little practice. It's small enough to fit into a back pocket without a bulge, which means I'm more likely to have it with me when I want it. That's the biggest plus. The more comprehensive books are OK, but they're always back at the house when I need them or in the way as I walk through the woods & want to take a picture. Not this book! I have several tree ID books & I may outgrow this one. But I haven't outgrown "The Tree Finder" by the same authors (for trees with leaves) & I've been using it for a couple of years on a pretty regular basis. Often I'll think I've found a tree that won't be in it, but there it is. It's been so worthwhile that I got a second copy to keep in the truck.

Excellent dichotomous key for anyone with or without tree knowledge. I bought one for myself and

liked it enough to get it as a gift, and I am a Biology graduate with some background in trees!

Great little book on tree ID in the winter, taking you from reading the features of a twig, leading you to identifying an entire tree. There are other, exceptional, glossier tree guides out there but this is a good primer and helps a person to "see" the little things that distinguish one tree from another. I used it in teaching a small group of volunteers who will serve as docents (giving tours to the public) at a local environmental organization and they are tasked with keying out about 50 trees in a park outside their facility. So far, they've identified twenty different trees. One nice thing about this and other guides in the series is its portability; it easily fits in a pocket or backpack.

very well written with some novel ways of identifying winter trees.

Thanks.

Identifying trees in the winter is a bit more of a challenge with no leaves to guide you. This book is an excellent source for your winter walks through the woods with accurate descriptions of trees, their barks and identifying characteristics. Great winter hiking or walking tool for people who love trees

Well laid out and very complete. Easy to use and concise. Unfortunately I didn't notice that it was for eastern US, and I'm on the west coast, but there's still a great deal of cross coverage so I've managed to make use of it anyhow. I will be buying the Pacific Coast version of this book as soon as I find it.

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