

Vascular Plants of Minnesota, A Checklist and Atlas

By Gerald B. Ownbey and Thomas Morley. 1991. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, xi + 308 pp. U.S. \$39.95.

This most useful publication represents the culmination of many years of study of the vascular plants of Minnesota — indeed the second author began the mapping project in 1962. The text following the introduction, which provides a most useful background, is divided into two parts: Checklist and Atlas.

But the checklist is not just a plain list. It contains a wealth of pertinent references that will be invaluable, not only to those working on the flora of Minnesota, but also the surrounding regions. Also included here are common names, pertinent synonymy, for non-native species "Naturalized" or "Introduced", and even such comments as "The proposed varieties are not distinguishable". An Appendix to the Checklist comprises a list of excluded species, and a second Appendix presents tables showing the breakdowns for the 2010 taxa listed.

Part 2 consists of 1881 distribution maps which show the positions of the 87 counties and depict the exact locations of the various collections — not just a single dot in the middle of a county. These are preceded by a larger map showing the names of the

counties, plus an alphabetical list of county names with a key to their locations. There are maps for all the native or presumed to be native species, even if some are known only from a single locality, plus introduced species that have become naturalized. Excluded are other introduced species that may occur from only time to time, but are not persistent. A comparison of these maps, as pointed out in the introduction, will demonstrate the dividing lines between the western limits of the eastern forest flora and the northern and eastern limits of the flora of the prairies and plains. Rare species can also readily be detected.

Knowledge of the flora of Minnesota has gradually increased through various publications starting in 1822, with the first comprehensive list in 1875 and the last in 1946. In addition, Olga Lakela published *A flora of northern Minnesota* in 1965 and Thomas Morley published *Spring flora of Minnesota* in 1974. As yet however no comprehensive flora of Minnesota exists. With the present checklist in hand, the writing of such flora should be a much easier task.

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The Illustrated Field Guide to Ferns and Allied Plants of the British Isles

By Clive Jermy and Josephine Camus. 1991. Natural History Museum Publications, London, England. X + 194 pp., illus. Paper £7.95.

Naturalists planning to visit the countryside of the British Isles will find this publication on the ferns and fern allies a welcome companion. The black silhouettes which are accompanied by fine line drawings of diagnostic parts where needed, are particularly useful. With these, the descriptions are not lengthy, but the important items are emphasized by

the use of bold face. The notes on habitat and distribution are most helpful, as are the many other pertinent comments found throughout. There are 72 species known in the area — the challenge now is to go out and find them.

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Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada

By Henry A. Gleason and Arthur Cronquist. 1991. Second Edition. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. LXXV + 910 pp. U.S. \$74.60 in U.S.A.; U.S. \$76.90 elsewhere.

This second edition is based on the first edition published in 1963, which in turn was based on the *New Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora*, published in 1952. As pointed out by Dr. Cronquist in the preface to the first edition, where the manual resembles the first printing of the *Illustrated Flora*, it is the

work of Gleason, and insofar as it differs, it is the work of Cronquist. Now in the second edition Cronquist takes full responsibility for the entire contents.

Perhaps the most obvious of changes is that the families of angiosperms follow the more modern arrangement proposed by Cronquist (1988) in his *Evolution and Classification of Flowering Plants*, rather than the Englerian arrangement followed in the first edition and many other floras. This may



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