

BOOK REVIEW

Edible Wild Plants of the Prairie: an Ethnobotanical Guide. Kelly Kindscher. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1987. Pp. x, 276. \$25.00 (cloth), \$9.95 (paper).

This book discusses 86 plants native to the prairies of central North America. Many of these plants are found in other parts of the continent as well. For each species, the author gives English, native, and scientific names, a brief description of the plant's morphology, habitat, and food uses, and a history of the plant's cultivation, if any. Many of the descriptions are accompanied by line drawings and range maps.

This book is semi-popular in nature, containing much information useful to the professional yet accessible to the non-specialist as well. It is well-referenced and more authoritative than many similar works on edible plants. The author is well-versed in the ethnobotanical literature and uses it to great effect.

If the book has a flaw it is that only a few plants are compared to poisonous look-alikes. No drawings of poisonous plants are included for comparison. Nevertheless, I highly recommend the book as a valuable reference.

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