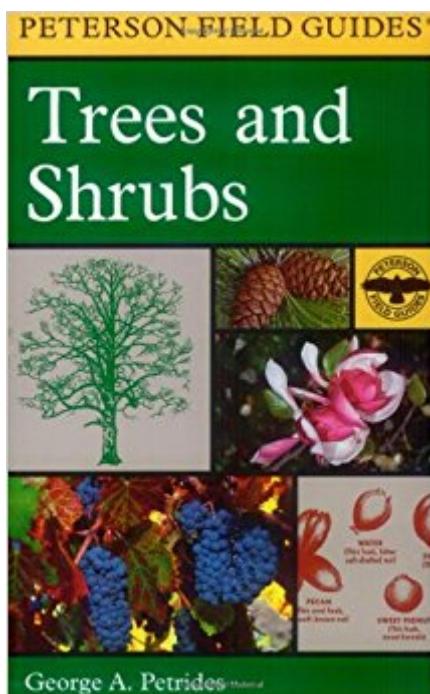


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# A Field Guide To Trees And Shrubs: Northeastern And North-central United States And Southeastern And South-central Canada (Peterson Field Guides)



## **Synopsis**

All the wild trees, shrubs, and woody vines in the area north to Newfoundland, south to North Carolina and Tennessee, and west to the Dakotas and Kansas are described in detail. Accounts of 646 species include shape and arrangement of leaves, height, color, bark texture, flowering season, and fruit. Clear, accurate drawings illustrate leaves, flowers, buds, tree silhouettes, and other characteristics.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

As a wetland delineator in PA, this book proves invaluable for field identification of trees, shrubs, and vines. Especially useful is are the keys for identification of these plants in winter when leaves and fruiting bodies are non-existent. I have several other tree books for reference, but they rarely are worth carting along in the field now that I have this book. I highly recommend it.

Petrides' work is the most accurate I have found in tree identification. Color pictures are no substitute for a close-up examination of the stems, leaves and fruit of trees and shrubs. It is considered the definitive source for the John Burroughs Naturalist Award bestowed by the Buckeye Council of the Boy Scouts of America only upon those capable of sight identification of approximately 600 trees, shrubs and wildflowers.

No mere Peterson field guide, this scholarly work is a concise encyclopedia of all the trees native to

the northeastern United States, with descriptions that can truly be used to tell them apart (a unique feat). Belongs in the backpack of any hiker who wants to learn trees. Fits in a half-gallon Ziploc. Remember you need a magnifying glass and a sharp knife to use the book properly.

Normally, I'm a big fan of Peterson Field Guides, the birds and wildflower books are great. However, this book misses the mark horribly and is not for the average consumer or newcomer to identifying things in the wild. Most of the text is written as if the reader were an experience botanist or dendrologist. In short, this thing needs a total re-write or needs to be classified as a college textbook or scientific reference book. **Cons:** There are drawings only, zero photographs. The text is hard to read and incomplete in some places. (things like tree height are wholly missing.) The identifying pictures are not with the species' text, causing the reader to flip around needlessly. The drawings are adequate but not detailed enough for good ID. **Pros:** There are some details about species not found in other guides, so this makes for a good supplemental guide. Basically, this book should be completely re-worked with photographs and new, easier to understand and read text, with the text accompanying the photos of the species. The silhouette portion of the book should be thrown out entirely as it's wholly misleading in many examples, with some major types missing. At least they should be near the species mentioned instead of in their own section. Hope they re-work this book, because their other guides are really good, this one is terrible and Audobon Society's guide beats it hands down and is my "go to" book for identifying trees and shrubs because they have photos and great info about each.

I picked this guide up at a park visitor center a while back. It is just ok and not one of my favorites. The book was originally published in the 50's and seems to have been renewed in the 70's. It could definitely use a modern-day revamping. It has a lot of content and covers a large area, however I find it above my level and hard to use. It uses complex wording and concepts that might be best suited for experts. I simply like to identify some plants as I hike. This book's difficulty almost takes the fun out of my hobby by making me feel like I need a college degree in botany to utilize its contents. The guide only has a few silhouettes and line sketches and makes identifying species very difficult. Needless to say it could use some pictures; the book contains none (the cover is quite misleading). Most modern guides are very liberal with color pictures and I think that helps tremendously. As another reviewer said, a picture is worth a thousand words. Limiting it even further, the guide only provides a description to discern a particular species from similar ones. I feel like other guides I have read provide more info past a description. I applaud Petrides for covering

such an extensive amount of species but give it a 2/5 due to my poor experience with its usability and difficulty. I wish I had an alternative guide to suggest for the regions covered but this is the only guide I have that covers the Eastern US. Sorry!

This book would be a lot better if it had more pictures. It's hard to compare a real specimen to a written paragraph.

Not for casual use. Designed for academics. Don't be fooled by the color photos and new design of the cover. It is old. Although trees don't change, its age shows in the printing - two colors often don't line up, variable darkness of text etc. A few things need updating. You have to have access to twigs and bud scars. These are helpful in winter without leaves, but not very helpful for tall trees. For summer, all you need is bark, leaves and flowers and fruit, but it has very little on bark - "rough" or "smooth" only go so far. I don't know if a good comprehensive field guide to trees with pictures exist, but I wish I would have looked around a bit more.

This is an wonderful guide to trees and one of the few that also includes shrubs. The format of keys and plates is very clear and an excellent introduction to the use of taxonomic keys.

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