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Pacific Coast Tree Finder: A Pocket Manual For Identifying Pacific Coast Trees (Nature Study Guides)



Synopsis

The classic key to identifying native trees of the Pacific Coast, updated to reflect changes in the names of trees since publication of the first edition. Identifies native trees, and some widely introduced or naturalized species, of the Pacific Coast region, from British Columbia to Baja California. In this edition, Latin names of trees that grow in California conform to the University of California's 1993 Jepson Manual, and more recent name changes. From the Finders series of pocket guides to native plants and animals of the U.S. and Canada; like all plant guides in the series, this book uses a dichotomous key format for accurate identification.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This was my first book on tree identification over 30 years ago. For this particular region it has never been exceeded in ease of use and utility. The various "Finder" books, many of them written by Dr. Glenn Keator, were so good that I eventually bought all of them. They were the best money I ever spent on plant ID books. Although an engineer and neurobiologist by training, I eventually took several undergraduate and graduate courses in plant taxonomy for my own enjoyment and interest, and I still find these guides are the first books I consult if I need a reminder or refresher on something. Mr. Watts did a great service writing this book, and he also did the equally good Rocky Mountain Tree Finder. Recently I did a web search and found Dr. Keator is still around writing and teaching at several San Francisco Bay Area junior colleges. He was also the consultant and trainer for the docents who give the tours at the Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park when I was living

in San Francisco. The "Finder" book series on different groups of plants, which include the Pacific Coast Fern Finder, the Pacific Coast Berry Finder, and the Sierra Flower Finder by Dr. Keator, as well as the Pacific Coast and Rocky Mountain Tree Finder books by Tom Watts, are still the best way for the beginner to get started identifying plants in these regions and I can recommend them as well.

Cheap and effective -- keep one in my car and one in my pack. No index, but a nice key system and better drawings than the Pacific Coast Berry Finder book. I'd still rather have higher quality line illustrations or photographs, but this gets the job done. I especially like the range maps for various species -- very informative and useful for identification.

This guide has come in very handy for tree identification in western and eastern Oregon. The steps of identification are very simple, illustrated and easy to follow. Highly recommended.

I 1st bought this book back in the 70s and this is an update. I have bought many other tree guides since but this one is great and easy to use and fits in your pocket. I "rediscovered" it when I was yet again confused by the cypress of California and was looking online at and there was this book that I had lost my copy of a decade ago. I promptly bought it and with Prime I had it days later. It's pocket size is both a blessing and a curse; easy to carry in you pocket on even a short walk but easily lost in the detritus of our lives. It is amazingly simple but useful. I find it ironically funny however that the reason I looked and found it, the California cypresses, the author also finds too complex and confusing for this very small book!

I've used this book successfully for years on hikes and backpacking trips. The size and easy format for identification are great!

A great little book that identifies trees by asking a series of questions about their characteristics, i.e., "flat leaf or needle", then it sends you to another page which eventually narrows down the identification. Very helpful.

Gave this as a gift to one of my daughter-in-laws. She seemed curious about knowing the names of native California trees on our family hikes through local regional parks. This easy to use reference book was the perfect choice; just the right amount of information to satisfy her curiosity, to not only

name the various local trees, but to also learn a bit about them.

Rather than showing a generalized shape of a tree and stating facts, this guides you through specific features to get you to the tree that you are identifying. It's pretty fun. It seems to be regional so don't expect to find a lot of the trees in peoples' landscaping that you won't find in the Pacific wilds.

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