

BOOK REVIEW

DAVID W. HALL. 2019. **Grasses of Florida**. (ISBN-13: 978-0-8130-5605-0, hbk). University Press of Florida, 15 NW 15th St., Gainesville, Florida 32611-2079, U.S.A. (Orders: www.upf.com, 800-226-3822). \$69.95 US, 353 pp., 500 + line drawings, 7" × 10".

From the Publisher: Grasses are the fourth-largest family of flowering plants worldwide. In Florida, grasses occur in every habitat and are the dominant ground cover across many regions. *Grasses of Florida* is the first complete systematic account of the grasses that occur in the wild throughout the state.

David Hall presents taxonomic descriptions of 118 genera and 463 species of the grass family, classified scientifically as Poaceae. Supplemented by over 500 illustrations, these accounts feature details on grass habitats, distribution both in-state and worldwide, frequencies of occurrence, and months of flowering. Descriptions of subfamilies and a key to the tribes of Florida grasses are also provided.

Additionally, Hall explains the geographic variations within Florida and the ways the state's soil and topography foster its great diversity of vegetation. He lists the major habitats referenced throughout the book, from pine flatwoods to coastal marshes to prairies, and the types of plants associated with each. A helpful section on morphology breaks down the structure of grass plants, highlighting their complexity and variety.

The up-to-date information in this book is necessary knowledge for anyone involved in agricultural and livestock production, weed control, erosion management, aesthetic landscaping, or conservation of Florida's native plant communities. Due to the extensive uses and tremendous diversity of grasses, this book is an essential identification guide.

DAVID W. HALL is the owner and operator of an environmental consulting firm in Gainesville, Florida, and is the former director of plant identification and information services at the University of Florida. He is author or coauthor of several books on plant identification and forensics, including *Forensic Botany: A Practical Guide*.

David Hall has given botanists and the grass enthusiast a practical systematic account of the grasses of Florida. Each species treated has a brief description based mostly on original measurements taken from Florida material. Complete scientific names with author citations, recent synonymy, common names, habitats and geographic ranges within Florida, and flowering dates are included. The excellent line drawings are from multiple sources including *Flora of North America*, Volumes 24 & 25.

—Barney Lipscomb, *Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.*