

BOTANY

A Checklist of Vascular Plants for Bruce and Grey Counties

Compiled by Bruce-Grey Plant Committee. 1995. 41 pp. Available from Own Sound Field Naturalists, Box 401, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 3T1 or The Saugeen Field Naturalists, Box 20156, Hanover, Ontario N4N 3T1. \$5.00 + \$1.00 postage and packing.

Checklists of the vascular plants of any region are always most useful for visitors and the local inhabitants interested in what is growing around them. This checklist for Bruce and Grey Counties, which includes all of Bruce Peninsula (but excludes Keppel, Sarawak, and parts of Derby Townships of Grey County), is an excellent one. It includes 1420 taxa (species, subspecies, and hybrids) representing 134 families.

The list is divided into three groups: Ferns and Fern Allies, Conifers, and Flowering Plants. The latter is again divided into Dicotyledons and Monocotyledons. Within each of these groups, the families, genera, and species are listed alphabetically, followed by a common name. What makes it special is the detail that is provided. The region is divided into three areas, Bruce Peninsula (p), southern Bruce County (b), and Grey County (g). The area from which each taxon is known follows the latin name, e.g., p,b,g, or P,B,G, if the distribution of a native species is understood and is considered to be

locally rare. In addition, marginal annotations have been made as follows:

- * Introduced from outside Ontario
- E Escaped from planting
- R Rare in Ontario — Natural Heritage Information Centre (S-ranking 1-3 only)
- H Historical Record — not recorded for 30 years or more, in some cases less if a single colony is known to be extirpated.

Pages 40 and 41 are Instructions for Reporting New or Rare Plants and Appendix A: Counties of Bruce and Grey Report of New or Rare Plant Species. Reports of new information should be sent to: Ministry of Natural Resources, 611 9th Avenue East, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 3E4. They will in turn forward the information to the Bruce-Grey Plant Committee.

All of this makes this checklist one of the best yet produced and those who contributed to it are to be congratulated.

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Sonoran Desert Plants: An Ecological Atlas

By Raymond M. Turner, Janice E. Bowers, and Tony L. Burgess. 1995. The University of Arizona Press, Tucson. xvi + 504 pp., illus. U.S. \$70.00.

The Sonoran Desert Region occupies the southeast corner of California, the southwest quarter of Arizona, and, in Mexico, much of Baja California and about two-thirds of the State of Sonora. In 1972, J. R. Hastings, R. M. Turner, and D. K. Warren published *An Atlas of Some Plant Distribution in the Sonoran Desert*. This contained maps of 238 species. It was their intention, at that time, to compile "a more complete atlas showing the distribution of the major perennial plants of the Sonoran Desert".

The present volume includes 339 species representing 54 families. It is greatly enlarged from the earlier treatment and now includes such information as scientific name and authority, selected common names, description, diagnostic characters of similar species, taxonomic problems, habitat, distributional patterns in the maps and profiles, biogeography, phenology, physiology, reproductive ecology and pollination, seedling establishment, growth rate and life-

span, horticulture, ethnobotany, and economic botany. In addition, beside each distribution map, there is a scale which depicts the altitudes of the localities on the map, a very unique feature. Scattered throughout the volume are a collection of photographs of various species, mainly taken by J. R. Hastings. These have a tendency to be rather dark, but still are most useful. A glossary, literature cited, and an index complete the work.

This publication represents a tremendous amount of work over a long period of time to ascertain the distributions, habitats, and other information on this group of most interesting plant species. It will be most useful both to those interested in their local vegetation and those who visit parts of the Sonoran Desert for the first time.

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