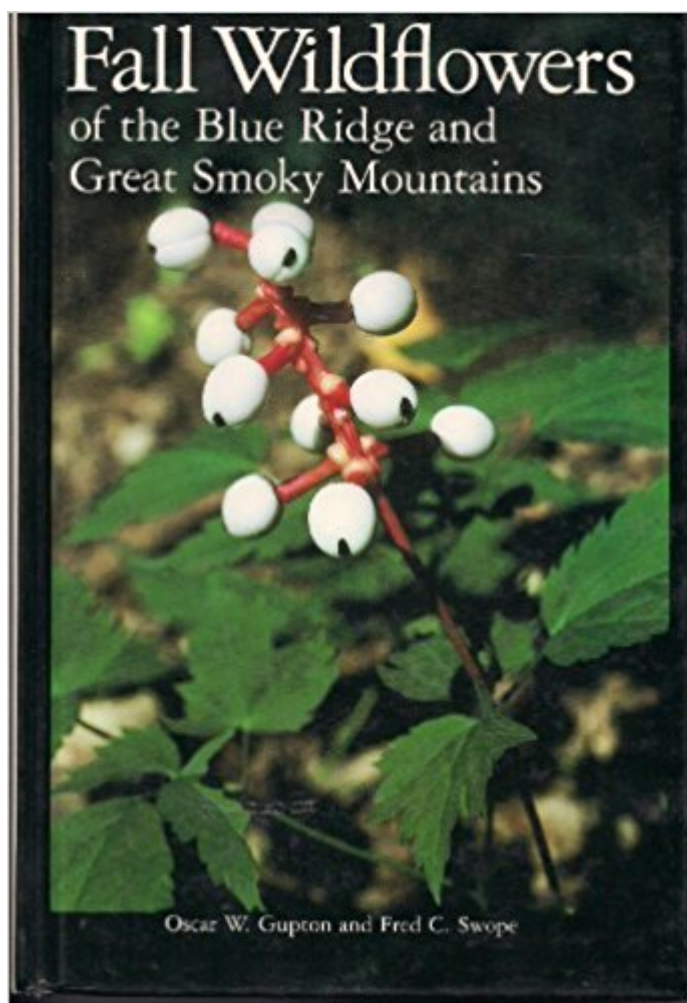


The book was found

Fall Wildflowers Of The Blue Ridge And Great Smoky Mountains



Synopsis

Octavo, Pictorial Hardcover, 1989, PP.208,

Book Information

Hardcover: 208 pages

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Customer Reviews

Octavo, Pictorial Hardcover, 1989, PP.208,

This book turned out to be a unique resource for identifying Southern Appalachian plants after they are done flowering for the season. It was a delightful find to complement my collection of wildflower field guides, though not quite what I was expecting from the title "Fall Wildflowers." I was envisioning a book about plants that bloom during autumn. Instead, this book concentrates on fruits and seedpods and even includes some seedless plants such as ferns and horsetail. There are very few actual flowers in any of the pictures except for a few accompanying fruits and seeds more or less by accident. The book is not only useful for fall season either, but rather many of the fruits and seedpods shown can be seen starting in May and throughout the summer and fall and well into winter in some cases. It was published in 1987, and consequently some of the taxonomy is outdated by now. However, I have not yet found any other more up-to-date source that provides equivalent information and images. The book contains beautiful full page (4x6 in.) photographs of fruits, seeds or equivalent structures of 100 species including trees, shrubs, vines, herbs and as mentioned above some seedless plants. Combining these pictures with details about similar plants in the descriptions, it claims to provide a guide to the identification of 224 species. It is designed to

be user friendly to a lay person with no prior knowledge of botany. Plants are organized by fruit/seedpod/sporangium color into four sections, with colored tabs on the edge of the pages: green-white-yellow (green tab), red-pink-orange (red tab), brown-black (brown tab), and blue-purple (blue tab). Within each section, plants are sorted roughly by the time they fruit or set seeds or spores, listing early-fruiting plants first and progressing into fall and winter, though I find it is sometimes not quite clear when each plant is fruiting. Most of the descriptions mention the month(s), but some don't. Each full-page photograph is accompanied by a description on the opposite page, written in non-technical language and including information such as the appearance of the plant, similar species, possible uses and toxicity, habitat and suitability for planting and propagation in wildflower gardens. The book ends with a pronunciation key for the scientific names and an index of common and scientific names. In summary, this is a delightful field guide to some of the fruits and seeds found in the wild along the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains. It wasn't quite what I was expecting from the title though, but it does fill a unique niche on my shelf full of wildflower field guides.

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