

BOOK REVIEW

JAMES STUBBENDIECK, STEPHAN L. HATCH, & CHERYL D. DUNN. 2017. **Grasses of the Great Plains**. (ISBN-13: 978-1-62349-477-3, hbk). Texas A&M Univ. Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843-4354, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.tamupress.com, 1-800-826-8911). \$50.00 US, 736 pp., 6 color photos, 15 figs., 428 maps, 442 line drawings, 7" × 10".

This volume is the latest and most comprehensive reference for identification of more than 450 species of grass that occur in the Great Plains region of North America. For the purposes of this book, the Great Plains region consists of all or parts of 10 states in the United States as well as 3 Canadian provinces.

The introductory section defines the general boundaries of the Great Plains and provides brief discussions of the geology, soils, and climate of the region. Also included in this section are illustrations and discussions of the primary vegetative parts of the grass plant and the terminology associated with them.

One of the most interesting and helpful features of this book is the checklist of grasses. The multiple-page listing is arranged alphabetically by scientific name (first by genus, second by species, and third by variety, if applicable). Each species listing includes synonyms and widely accepted common names. The category column identifies the categories associated with each species (e.g., native/introduced, perennial/annual, and warm season/cool season). The distribution column indicates states and/or provinces in which each species has been documented. This serves as a quick reference to determine the likelihood of a species occurring in a general area of interest.

A key to groups and genera follows the checklist and precedes the primary portion of the book which consists of generic keys and species descriptions for each of the 450 species. Each genus is preceded by a generic key, and the key is followed by descriptions of each species in that genus.

The detailed description of each species includes a general distribution map and information related to habitat, forage value, management considerations, etc. Descriptions are accompanied by detailed black-and-white line drawings of the grass and its vegetative parts.

This book is a "must have" reference for landowners, grassland specialists, resource management agency professionals, conservation organizations, students, and others who are interested in grasses.—*Dan Caudle, Resident Research Associate, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.*