

BOOK NOTICE

WELBY R. SMITH. PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICHARD HAUG. 2018. **Sedges and Rushes of Minnesota: The Complete Guide to Species Identification.** (ISBN-13: 978-01-5179-0275-9, pbk). University of Minnesota Press, 111 Third Avenue South, Suite 290, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-2520, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.upress.umn.edu). \$39.95 US, 696 pp., 1100 color plates, 6" × 9".

From the Publisher: When most of us encounter a sea of what seem like grasses, we don't know if we're looking at a bog or a fen, a swamp or a marsh or a meadow. What we're seeing probably aren't even grasses. They are sedges and rushes, which frequently make up the majority of plants in a wetland—and they can tell us, by their presence and pattern of occurrence, what kind of wetland it is. Quick to respond to changes in habitat, they are good indicators of ecological conditions. As significant as they are in the natural environment, sedges and rushes are also simply beautiful—noteworthy features in a garden and in the wild.

This book is an expert, accessible guide to the nearly 250 species of sedges and rushes in Minnesota. With its finely detailed photographs and descriptions, *Sedges and Rushes of Minnesota* enables quick and reliable identification of these often difficult-to-distinguish species. As an in-depth introduction or a handy field guide, the book is the first complete, comprehensive reference on these important plants of Minnesota—an invaluable resource for specialists, naturalists, and wild plant lovers.

Welby R. Smith is the Minnesota State Botanist with the Department of Natural Resources in Saint Paul. He is author of *Native Orchids of Minnesota* and *Trees and Shrubs of Minnesota* and a contributor to *Minnesota's Endangered Flora and Fauna*, all from the University of Minnesota Press.

Richard Haug has been a native plant enthusiast and photographer for thirty-five years.

Having had an interest in sedges for many years I was pleased to see such a beautifully illustrated guide to sedges and rushes if only for the state of Minnesota. The field guide is very well done. Each species is carefully portrayed in full color not only in habit but also with close-up photos of critical characters that are needed for identification. The treatment for a sedge friend *Cyperus esculentus* (var. *leptostachyus*) includes a photograph of a carefully excavated rhizome and tuber. Very nice indeed! Field biologists, botanists, herbarium botanists, naturalists, and taxonomists will greatly appreciate this excellent resource.—*Barney Lipscomb, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.*