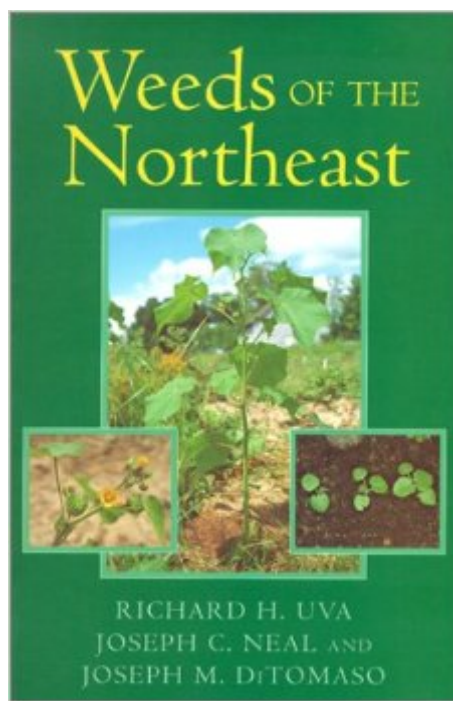


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# Weeds Of The Northeast



## Synopsis

Here, at last, is a lavishly illustrated manual for ready identification of 299 common and economically important weeds in the region south to Virginia, north to Maine and southern Canada, and west to Wisconsin. Based on vegetative rather than floral characteristics, this practical guide gives anyone who works with plants the ability to identify weeds before they flower.\*A dichotomous key to all the species described in the book is designed to narrow the choices to a few possible species. Identification can then be confirmed by reading the descriptions of the species and comparing a specimen with the drawings and photographs.\*A fold-out grass identification table provides diagnostic information for weedy grasses in an easy-to-use tabular key.\*Specimens with unusual vegetative characteristics, such as thorns, square stems, whorled leaves, or milky sap, can be rapidly identified using the shortcut identification table. The first comprehensive weed identification manual available for the Northeast, this book will facilitate appropriate weed management strategy in any horticultural or agronomic cropping system and will also serve home gardeners and landscape managers, as well as pest management specialists and allergists.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is one of the best weed books I have come across. It has very clear descriptive text and the photos are all clear and crisp. But what really thrilled me is that in addition to this the authors have included photos of seedlings and seeds of each species! Who hasn't been out in the field only to be stumped on a plant's identification because the plant is only in the seedling stage? Me, for one...

lots of times. The book even has a section on common weed tree seedlings. Wow! I would recommend this book to any professional or amateur botanist. I hope to see more from these authors.

When I first saw this book at a workshop which was given by the Children's Museum of Boston this summer, I knew I had to have it. Weeds are no longer nameless. Every type of weed I have seen so far I can identify using this book. The illustrations are real photographs and not drawings so what you see is the real thing. I keep the book in my car so when I go to my friend's house I can show off my knowledge of weeds :). The title usually gets raised eyebrows. But when I show it to people their reaction changes. Even my children ages 10 and 11 use it. The only drawback is that if you don't know the name of the weed you will have to flip through the whole book. But then I don't know how I could have organized it any better if I had written it myself. Excellent book anyway.

This book is an invaluable guide for amateurs who want to know "what that thing growing over there" is. I just bought some land that is covered with a mysterious, bamboo-like, nearly impassable stand of Mystery Plant. With this book in hand, within minutes I identified it as Japanese Knotweed. The only reason why I didn't give the book (which began as Uva's doctoral dissertation) a perfect "10" is this: the organization lacks convenience. Each plant is shown on two pages; the left is a neat, detailed description of the plant, the right is several photos of it. To find a plant, you must flip through every page (it's arranged by monocot and dicot, but if you don't know into which category the plant falls, you're a little lost).

As a librarian at a botanical research library, I am often asked to recommend a good book on this subject. Until now I couldn't. This is it. Long may it stay in print!

This book is a treasure. I own and use many dozens of "weed" and plant books and this is one of the most comprehensive and useful. The written presentation for each plant includes information on its propagation, seedlings, roots, flowers and fruits and habitat, and more. The photographs are excellent and show the habit, seedling, leaves, flowers/fruits and seeds. Some grasses are also included. I hope that the authors will eventually expand the geographical coverage and the number of species. I'll be first in line to buy a new edition!

Because this book is selective and regional rather than comprehensive, it has been extremely

useful in identifying and providing info on the "weeds" I am likely to see. The descriptive information on all stages of the plant, in combination with photos, rather than a focus on flower and secondarily on leaves, make this easy to use for nonexperts like myself; it also sets it apart from the (also useful) Newcomb book and other field guides I have. (In gardening, it is especially useful to be able to identify weeds at their early stages.) The organization of the book is reasonable, but it is also easy enough to leaf through to spot weeds by photo. The "weed management" focus of the book (weeds being viewed from the standpoint of crops, orchards, and nurseries) means that it includes native as well as nonnative plants (although the descriptions mention where the weed is a native). It is interesting to me to see what native plants are considered nuisances. My own primary interest is in environmental balance, the promotion of native plants, and the control of invasive nonnatives, and while this not a main resource for me, I find it very useful. Incidentally, I have Eastman's "The Book of Field and Roadside," which is an extremely entertaining, idiosyncratic adjunct.

I'm very pleased with this guide. After spending time with field research botanists, I've come to appreciate how difficult it can be to catalog invasive plants--they're EVERYWHERE! And of varying sizes, shapes, colors. Some so innocuous that it wouldn't even occur to you to notice and others so prolific in their families that it takes forever to track the different varieties. Luckily, Uva, Neal, and DiTomaso did and put together an excellent little book. As a professional gardener, this has been a handy reference. I would give it five stars, but I do have issue with some of the items. In the Introduction, weeds are discussed, but it is not clearly established what makes a "weed" a weed. For example, mallow is listed as a weed, but it appears to be a weed in the context of agricultural plantings. To my understanding, there are several native varieties of mallow in the U.S. Is this particular variety non-native? Is it a nuisance plant? Is it unsightly? My definition of weed has always been non-native escapists or volunteers. I'd like to see this clearly defined. I would also like more information on where the plant originates and what makes it a weed in the Northeast. As well as any beneficial qualities--are parts of the plant edible? Can any of it be used? Difficulties eradicating? Basically, as a gardener I'd like to know if there are any positive attributes. If I have a field full of amaranth is it the same type of amaranth sold in the stores? How does it vary? Could my client potentially harvest any of this before tilling or pulling out? The scientific information, such as plant identification: size of seeds, defining leaf shapes, etc., is all very clear and well done. As I said the photos are great. All in all this is indispensable, I just wish they would continue to add to the text.

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