
THE ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA of TREES. By John White. Timber Press, Portland, OR 2003. 2,000 color illustrations, 800 pp. Hardcover $79.95. Nearly 200 double-page spreads describe and illustrate over 1000 commonly cultivated species and varieties of trees. The species are those that grow in Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, and Holland, although most also grow in North America. The text presents scholarly reflection about trees. Artist David More spent 12 years creating the beautiful close-up paintings that meticulously detail leaves, bark, blossoms, fruit, nuts, and cones against a white background. Deciduous trees are illustrated both in full leaf and in a winter silhouette. Whimsical animals and people demonstrate scale. Timber Press also published Fantasy Trees, by Edwin Menninger and James Eckenwalder (1995, 240 b/w photos, 320 pp. $29.95), a humorous, but factual, survey of unusual trees that have strange habits such as changing sex, producing underground flowers and fruit, telling time, making noises, and creating their own rain.

ENCYCLOPEDIA of NORTH AMERICAN TREES. By Sam Benvie. Firefly Books, Buffalo, NY. 2002. 350 color photos, 304 pp. Softcover $24.95. This descriptive encyclopedia covers 278 species—nearly all trees native to North America—listed alphabetically by Latin name with entries for major genera. This is not a field guide, as Farrar’s Hardy Trees of the Northern US and Canada (Iowa State Univ., 1995), or guide to cultivars as Dirr’s Trees and Shrubs or Dirr’s Trees (Timber Press, 1997). It is an impressive listing with concise descriptions on describing the appearance, special characteristics, habitat, natural range, weather tolerance, and commercial and environmental value, with at least one color photograph for each tree. A glossary lists botanical gardens to visit, further reading, internet addresses, and tree terms and genera. Illustrations of typical leaf shapes, bark textures, flowers, and mature fruit complete this excellent reference. Benvie coauthored The Gardener’s Library series (Key Porter Books).

WILLOWS: The Genus Salix. By Christopher Newsholme. Timber Press, Portland, OR. 2003. 65 color plates, b&w line drawings, 256 pp. Softcover $19.95. This worldwide survey of willows (Salix spp.) groups them into chapters according to their growth habit, which ranges from tiny alpines to the statuesque weeping willow. Newsholme has an UK Official National Collection of Willows for the UK.


NEW TREE FIELD GUIDES


