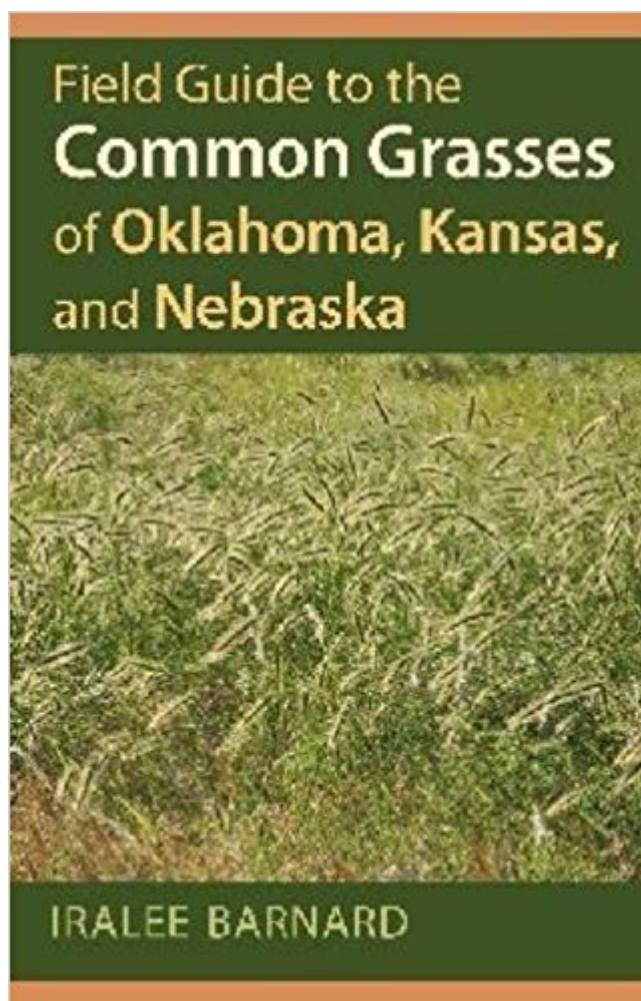


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# Field Guide To The Common Grasses Of Oklahoma, Kansas, And Nebraska



## Synopsis

Once covered by wild grasses, America's heartland is by nature a grassland, populated with plants whose ecological importance, practical value, and subtle beauty we are only now beginning to comprehend. Of the 3,000 species of wild plants in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska, in the heart of the heartland, only two of every ten are grasses, and in some prairies just one or two of these can account for 80 to 90 percent of the ground cover. It is these major wild grasses, the native and the naturalized, that this field guide covers, as well as some not found in such large numbers but nonetheless widespread and easily noticed. From the more familiar (like big bluestem, little bluestem, Indiangrass, switchgrass, buffalograss, sideoats grama, and blue grama) to the less recognized (such as ticklegrass, rice cutgrass, and prairie wedgegrass), from the weedy to the desirable, each of the seventy species profiled in these pages appears in full-color, its fundamental characteristics clearly identifiable by novice and expert alike: flowers and seed heads, leaf details with size comparisons, and whole mature plant pictures. Though of ever broadening interest to ranchers, gardeners, naturalists, and restorers of prairies and native landscapes, grasses are notoriously tricky to identify. A number of features of this guide make the task considerably easier. A handy system of "finding lists," allows a user to navigate quickly to identification of an unknown grass. Descriptions, written in clear and easily understood terms, focus on the primary characteristics of each species and are accompanied by distribution maps. And an illustrated glossary, leaf comparison section, and table of grass flowering dates provide additional information and opportunities for recognizing and appreciating various species. Putting these plants into ecological and cultural context, botanist and grass specialist Iralee Barnard gives readers, whether curious amateur, passionate naturalist, or professional, a new way of understanding the grasses of America's prairies and plains, including their plant structures and adaptations, their natural history, ecological associations, and cultural importance.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“A must-have guide for ranchers, naturalists, land owners and managers, and anyone wanting an introduction to the grasses of the Great Plains. Easy-to-use finding lists, simple descriptions, and plentiful photographs make identifications a cinch.” — Craig Freeman, coauthor of *Roadside Wildflowers of the Southern Plains* *Field Guide to Common Grasses of Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska* will become the book every grassland ecologist will want to have on their book shelf or in their field vehicle. I am confident that this book will be used extensively not only by professional grassland ecologists but also by individuals who are just curious or want to know more about the grasses they see every time they are outside.” — John M. Briggs, Director of Konza Prairie Biological Station at Kansas State University An excellent tool for researchers and students in the Midwest region. No herbarium library or interested individual should be without it.” — Bruce Hoagland, Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory and Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability at the University of Oklahoma “This field-sturdy guide will be a valuable tool for all who need to know their grasses of the central Great Plains and a nice introduction to the pursuit for novices.” — The Prairie Naturalist “A must-have guide for ranchers, naturalists, land owners and managers, and anyone wanting an introduction to the grasses of the Great Plains. Easy-to-use finding lists, simple descriptions, and plentiful photographs make identifications a cinch.” — Craig Freeman, coauthor of *Roadside Wildflowers of the Southern Plains* *Field Guide to Common Grasses of Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska* will become the book every grassland ecologist will want to have on their book shelf or in their field vehicle. I am confident that this book will be used extensively not only by professional grassland ecologists but also by individuals who are just curious or want to know more about the grasses they see every time they are outside.” — John M. Briggs, Director of Konza Prairie Biological Station at Kansas State University An excellent tool for researchers and students in the Midwest region. No herbarium library or interested individual should be without it.” — Bruce Hoagland, Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory and Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability at the University of Oklahoma

Iralee Barnard is a retired botanist who worked with the National Park Service at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Chase County, Kansas, establishing and managing photopoint vegetation monitoring, conducting plant surveys, preparing and curating plant voucher specimens, and mapping rare and invasive plant species. While Extension Research Botanist and Interim Herbarium Director at Kansas State University, her work involved providing identification of plant specimens received from 105 county agents across the state, as well as development of botanical educational programs and materials.

I was surprised at the amount of information contained in this book. It wholly answered questions I had about grasses I see in my area. The book is a great product for taking into the field with you. I recommend it to anyone wanting such information.

This has become our go-to resource for identifying grasses on a tract of land we bought in Oklahoma. Each entry includes high-quality photos of the plant's parts and a map of the distribution, along with a description and a comment about that plant's uses or peculiarities. A growing season flowchart and groups of photos comparing leaf blades help the user distinguish similar grasses. The glossary is illustrated with color photos. The organization of the entries is clear and consistent, even to the botanically challenged. I wish all field guides were this easy to use.

Just what I was looking for. I prefer photos to pen and ink drawing when trying to identify things. I particularly like that there are several shots of each type of grass, and that the writer used a coin in the photos for scale - great idea! Unfortunately, the grass I was trying to identify isn't in here - haven't been able to find anyone yet who knows what it is. May be in the love grass family! No book can possibly include everything, and this is a really good comprehensive book for most of my needs.

Grasses are difficult to learn because there are so freaking many species. This field guide is well organized and it has wonderful colorful pictures. This is a great resource for any one that works in wetland delineations, assessments, or any faction of natural resources.

GREAT book - lots of great photos. Shows the plant single, as a bunch, close up photos of leaves, seeds, etc.

good identification of these state grasses

good reference.

very informative

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