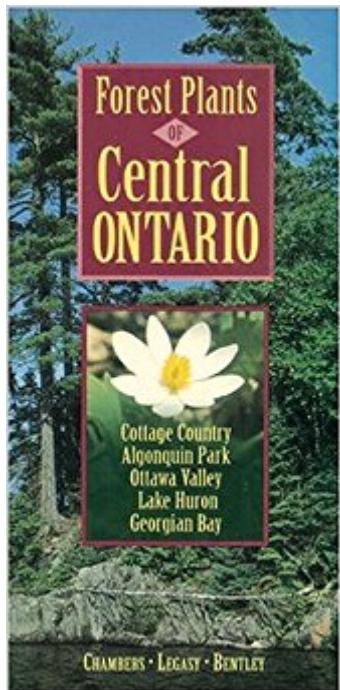


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# Forest Plants Of Central Ontario



## **Synopsis**

Over 300 species of trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses, ferns, mosses and lichens found in Cottage Country, Algonquin Park, the Ottawa Valley, the Lake Huron region and Georgian Bay.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 448 pages

Publisher: Lone Pine Publishing (February 14, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1551050617

ISBN-13: 978-1551050614

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 4.3 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,632,452 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #87 in Books > Travel > Canada > Provinces > Ontario #653 in Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > Forestry #810 in Books > Travel > Canada > General

## **Customer Reviews**

..a painless introduction to the flora of central Ontario. --Canadian Field Naturalist magazine...a valuable guide for those interested in identifying and learning about those plants living in cottage country. --Cottage Country magazine

The late BRENDA CHAMBERS was an ecologist with the Ontario government, a keen naturalist and an author of several books. KAREN LEGASY is an information officer with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, based in Kemptville, Ontario.

As noted in previous reviews and comments, this guide is extremely useful. It is useful as a plant guide in its intended region (and surrounding regions likely) and also as a general model for how to construct plant guides that are useful. Its key features are good organization of plants by features to identify them, inclusion of BOTH line drawings and photographs of each species, inclusion of numerous types of plants (grasses, mosses, etc) rather than only 'wildflowers' like so many less useful guides, and well-done and interesting descriptions of the plants (including ethnobotany information, such as how humans have used the plants). Among plant guides, this simply has been one of the most useful purchases I have made. Also, the publisher (Lone Pine) has published

guides for some other regions. This publisher's guides generally are among the best, as many of them contain the excellent features listed above. The utility of having both a line drawing and a photograph of a species to identify it cannot be understated.

I used this plant guide in Killarney Provincial Park (Ontario) and found it useful for identifying major plant species of the area. This guide is interesting because it includes both a photograph and a line drawing of each plant featured in the guide. Plants are divided into lifeforms (e.g., shrub) and descriptions of each plant within a lifeform are contained in a separate section of the guide. The keys for plant identification are not detailed, but the objective of this book is to provide a simple, non-technical guide for plant identification. The authors meet this objective. For more detailed plant identification, a technical botanical guide (Michigan Flora by Ed Voss) probably should be used instead of Forest Plants of Central Ontario. I recommend Forest Plants of Central Ontario as an interesting, non-technical guide for identifying major plant species of the region. It is appropriate for more advanced botanists as a handy field guide and is also appropriate for investigators who have no formal botanical training but who want to quickly learn to identify plants.

This book covers a small area of Eastern North America, so it is easier to identify plants that you might find in say the Ottawa Valley, without ploughing through all the plants that only occur further south. It includes trees, shrubs, herbs, grasses, sedges & rushes, ferns & allies, mosses & liverworts and lichens, all in one book. For the non-botanist this is the best book for this area (including West Quebec). Unlike other wildflower books that concentrate on flowers, this shows and describes leaves and fruits, making identification easier at times when there are no flowers. Charts and keys at the start of each section help in identification.

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