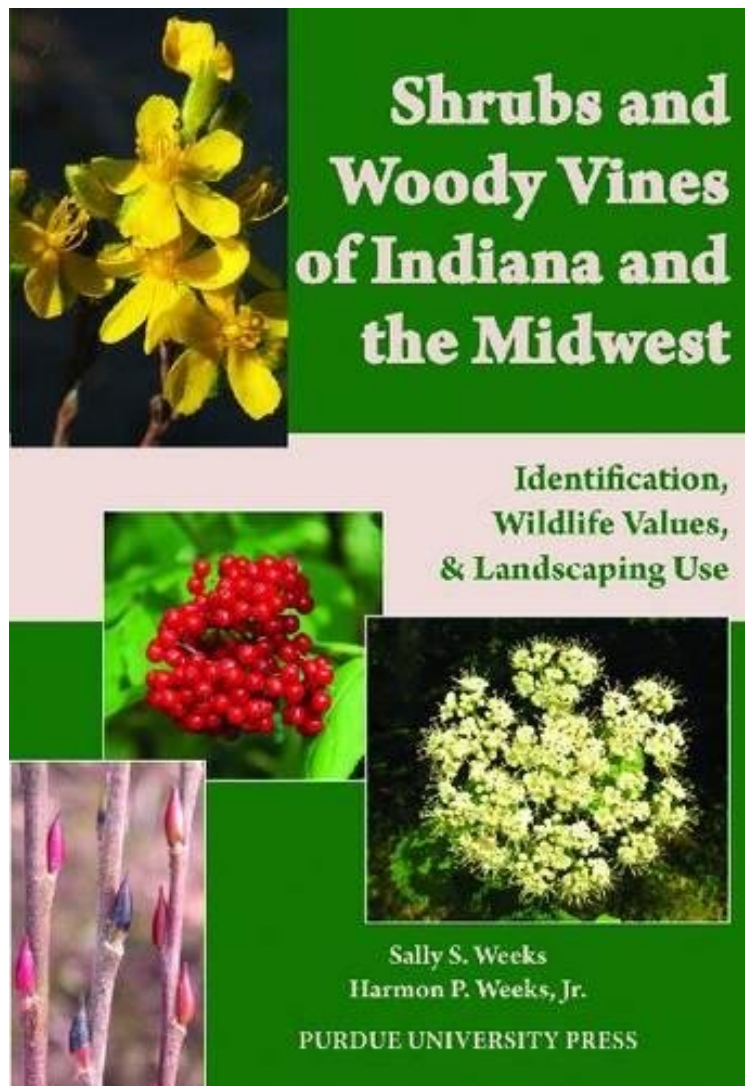


[Free] Shrubs and Woody Vines of Indiana and the Midwest: Identification, Wildlife Values, and Landscaping Use

## **Shrubs and Woody Vines of Indiana and the Midwest: Identification, Wildlife Values, and Landscaping Use**

*Sally S. Weeks, Harmon P. Weeks*  
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#1053935 in Books Purdue University Press 2012-03-15 2012-03-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.50 x 1.00 x 6.501, 2.60 #File Name: 1557536104475 pages | File size: 41.Mb

**Sally S. Weeks, Harmon P. Weeks : Shrubs and Woody Vines of Indiana and the Midwest: Identification, Wildlife Values, and Landscaping Use** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shrubs and Woody Vines of Indiana and the Midwest: Identification, Wildlife Values, and Landscaping Use:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Great overall, but falls flat discussing complicated genera and non-

native plants

By Frank Hassler

Overall, this book is great. It's filled with diagnostic photos of various features of many species of shrubs. Each species description covers a full spread of two pages so there is plenty of room for both detailed text and numerous images, including a range map focused on the midwest showing the county distribution for each species. This layout is excellent, and I expect it will be the standard for similar field guides in the future. Now that we're in the age of modern printing, we can largely leave the dusty old dichotomous keys behind. While a key is included in this book, I certainly find I have much better results identifying plants with visual (or tactile) characteristics, and the large number of high quality, detailed images in this book will certainly work well with the way my brain works. I was especially happy to see that there is "Wildlife Uses" information for each species, as this sort of information always helps illustrate the importance of our wild plants in the natural community. More importantly, the "Landscaping Value" information for each species encourages people to think about how we could use these plants in our human landscape. If we are to preserve the diversity of our region over time, it is essential that we begin to include these native plants more in our human environments. This book does have some weaknesses however. Their treatment of some genera is limited. They only include about half of the roses and blackberry species for example. Though they make this clear in their introduction to the genus, it could cause some confusion and misidentification for the end users. For the hawthorns, they don't even try at all, and basically say that 'these are too complicated for us to deal with'. Indeed this is a tough genus to crack, but it's exactly the kind of information I was really hoping for when I made this purchase. Another area of weakness is how they deal with non-native shrubs. Since (sadly) the majority of shrubs in our natural areas are non-native, this is an important group to deal with. Non-native plants are relegated to a short section at the end of the book, so if you're in the field thumbing through to find a species that visually matches the plant in front of you, you have to somehow know its non-native in order to go look for it in the back. For example, the two native buckthorns and the two invasive buckthorn species are 200 pages apart! The coverage of non-native woody plants is limited, page 399 is simply a list of some 20 non-native shrubs and vines that should have been explored in more detail, and I can think of at least a few that are common on the landscape or ecologically important that should have been included in this book in detail. And one last nitpick on this subject; I was hoping to find some clarification between the invasive European highbush cranberry and the rare native American highbush cranberry here, but instead they confuse the matter considerably to the point that it would completely misguide anyone trying to identify them in the field, or anyone looking to use native shrubs in their landscape. Despite these limitations, I'm going to give this book 4 out of 5 stars for the great layout and detailed information. I'm hoping that the authors keep working on this book, and can provide a more comprehensive and accurate second edition.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Extremely useful guide

By Myrita Revel

This work is very complete. Species are easy to find; they are shown as they look throughout the seasons, in their many parts, such as bark, leaves, flowers and fruits. Pictures are abundant and beautiful. I recommend this guide for anyone who wants to learn about shrubs and vines of the Midwest.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very useful

By beattymn

Excellent field guide for anyone interested in shrubs of Indiana or any of the adjacent states. It is inclusive, contains great photos, and also has excellent keys in the back.

As the definitive identification guide to the shrubs and woody vines of Indiana, this book also provides coverage of 90% of the species to be found in surrounding Midwestern US states. As well as covering indigenous species, it also includes all currently known invasive shrubs. Written by two leading experts in plant taxonomy, the guide is prepared in the same attractive, easy-to-use format as the bestselling *Native Trees of the Midwest*. Descriptive text explains how to identify every species in any season, and original color photographs taken by Sally Weeks detail all important characteristics. The authors provide practical guidance concerning the potential ornamental value of each species for those interested in landscaping and also evaluate their potential value for encouraging wildlife. Designed for experts in natural resource management as well as the interested general public, the volume includes distribution maps, identification keys, and an index of both common and Latin names.

The Herald Times [Bloomington, Indiana; May 5, 2012; by Bob Baird]

It was refreshing to run into a naturalist who knows her stuff and backs it up with a definitive volume with more than 1,000 color plates (her own) of leaves, stems, flowers, berries and landscape settings of shrubs and woody vines native to Indiana and surrounding states. Sally proved to be a personable, knowledgeable speaker who doesn't drift into horticultural babble. Her writing style is equally fresh and engaging. Besides identifying my mystery shrub, she and husband Mick, a retired Purdue wildlife biologist, brought wonderful insights to our neck of the woods.