

BOOKS ABOUT NEW ZEALAND BOTANY

Society members have asked for information on books useful for study of various groups of New Zealand plants. The list that follows has mainly been compiled by Derek Cook. It deals with references on indigenous plants at a serious, but not highly technical level. With one exception all of the books in the list (or their most recent editions) were published after 1970. Nomenclature is, of course, not up-to-date for some species in some books, but, in most cases, this is not too much of a problem. Some of the books are out of print - they are only accessible in libraries, on the bookshelves of old botanists and in specialist, or second hand bookshops (in Christchurch Arnold's in New Regent Street is very good, and Smith's in Manchester Street, near High Street, has some titles).

In the future we will continue this series with lists of the more technical treatises, books which deal mainly with introduced plants, and some of the older books which, though they are historic documents, are often still useful for checking particular points [Ed.].

The following list is not organised in any specific way, except alphabetically, by the first author's surname; O.P. = out of print.

Adams, N.M. 1967. *New Zealand Native Trees I*. Mobil N.Z. Nature Series, Reed, Wellington.

Adams, N.M. 1983. *New Zealand Native Trees II*. Mobil N.Z. Nature Series, Reed, Wellington.

36 and 32 native plants (mostly trees, with some shrubs and a tree fern) are featured, respectively, in these two little books. Beautifully painted images of the whole plant; and their flowers and fruit make the books both very attractive and very useful for beginner botanists.

Adams, N.M. 1980. *Mountain Flowers in New Zealand*. Mobil N.Z. Nature Series, Reed, Wellington, O.P.

More than 60 species are figured. Similar to the two books above, this is a very useful one for starting on the botany of the mountains.

Allison, K.W., Child, J. 1971. *The Mosses of New Zealand*. University of Otago Press, Dunedin. O.P.

This book introduces the mosses and has clear line drawings and monochrome photos of many species. General and special keys are included.

Allison, K.W., Child, J. 1975. *The Liverworts of New Zealand*. University of Otago Press, Dunedin. O.P.

Another introductory book, similar to the above. Some keys are provided but this group is relatively more difficult than are the mosses.

Anon. 1995. *Ferns : A Field Guide*. Nelson Botanical Society, Nelson.

A comprehensive coverage, with a very clear key, brief text on each species and silhouettes of fronds. Covers native and introduced species and also horsetails, lycopods and psilophytes.

Brownsey, P.J. & Smith-Dodsworth, J.C. 1989. *New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants*. David Bateman, Auckland, O.P.

Covers the whole fern flora, native and introduced, with a descriptive text. Clear black and white drawings and some excellent colour photos. Systematic use enables any fern to be identified - a really excellent book which covers horsetails, lycopods and psilophytes also.

Connor, H.E. 1977 (reprint 1992). *Poisonous Plants in New Zealand*. Government Printer, Wellington.

A systematic and very useful account which briefly describes the plants and their distribution and outlines their toxicity for stock and humans. The toxicology of the compounds is outlined.

Cooper, D. 1981. *A Field Guide to New Zealand Native Orchids*. Wellington Orchid Society, Wellington. O.P.

A clear description of N.Z. orchids with details of growth forms, life histories, habitats and distributions.

Dobson, A.T. 1976. *A Guide to the New Zealand Grass Genera*. Reprint from *Review* No 32, Tussock Grasslands and Mountain Lands Institute, Lincoln College. O.P.

Consists of a key and checklist for most native and introduced grasses, with a brief account of their relative abundance and habitats. A similar account was published in *Mauri Ora* 3, 111-123, 1975.

Eagle, A. 1975 (revised 1981). *Eagle's Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand*. Series 1. William Collins, Auckland. O.P.

Eagle, A. 1982. *Eagle's Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand*. Series 2. William Collins, Auckland, O.P.

Most woody species, and their flowers, fruit and seeds are figured, with very attractive paintings. These two books have proved to be of great value to botanists; the illustrations are very life-like.

Heath, E. & Chinnock, R.J. 1974. *Ferns and Fern Allies of New Zealand*. Reed, Wellington. O.P.

The painted illustrations are very attractive. Having several species on a page is helpful. All common ferns are treated.

Johns, J. & Molloy, B. 1983. *Native Orchids of New Zealand*. Reed, Wellington. O.P.

Exceptionally beautiful photographs illustrate the book. The informative text covers 80 species, discussing their characters, habitats and distribution.

Johnson, P. & Brooke, P. 1989. *Wetland Plants in New Zealand*. DSIR Publications, Wellington.

After a brief description of wetland habitats and vegetation, there is a comprehensive coverage of the flora, with drawings of most species. An essential accompaniment to any study of aquatic plants and a first rate book.

Mark, A.F. & Adams, N.M. 1973 (revised 1995). *New Zealand Alpine Plants*. Reed/Methuen and Godwit Publishing (new edition), Auckland.

Beginning with a description of the alpine zone and habitat conditions, the ecology of the vegetation is outlined. Then, with beautiful paintings, many of the plants are figured, together with descriptions of their main characters, habitats and distributions.

Martin, W. & Child, J. 1972. *Lichens of New Zealand*. Reed, Wellington. O.P.

A good introductory book, covering the common lichen species, with monochrome and colour photographs of many. Keys to species in some genera are included.

Metcalf, L.J. 1972 (revised 1991). *The Cultivation of New Zealand Trees and Shrubs*. Reed, Auckland.

Excellent account of propagation, cultivation information and soil requirements for 600 species. Pest and disease control is covered.

Metcalf, L.J. 1993. *The Cultivation of New Zealand Plants*. Godwit Press, Auckland.

A definitive reference for cultivation of native species including herbs, ferns, ornamental grasses and small shrubs suitable for rock gardens. Sections cover landscaping, alpine houses, scree and moraine gardens and ferneries.

Molloy, B.P.J. 1983. *Ferns of Peel Forest*. Department of Lands & Survey, Christchurch.

All ferns of the region are very well illustrated. This book enables all common Canterbury ferns to be identified with ease.

Moore, L.B. & Irwin, J.B. 1978. *The Oxford Book of New Zealand Plants*. Oxford University Press, Wellington. O.P.

This is a valuable book because the many monochrome and some colour paintings (mostly of angiosperms and gymnosperms, but including some seaweeds, fungi, lichens, bryophytes and ferns) cover some of the details not seen in most references on our flora. They include seeds and views and sections of flowers and fruit. A coded table enables families to be identified and the descriptions of each species contain much useful information.

Poole, L. & Adams, A. 1963 (revised 1990). *Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand*. DSIR, Wellington.

This is the most useful popular book on NZ woody plants that has ever been published. Clear line drawings illustrate the plants and, although there is no key, leaf characters are used to facilitate easy identification.

Salmon, J.T. 1980 (new edition 1996). *The Native Trees of New Zealand*. Reed, Wellington.

The illustrations are photographs; 220 species are figured, by means of 1500 colour images. Whole plants, leaves, flowers and fruit are shown and there is an introductory section on ecology. A very useful book for botanists.

Salmon, J.T. 1985. *Collin's Guide to the Alpine Plants of New Zealand*. Collins, Auckland.

Many of the species of alpine and subalpine zones are illustrated, with colour photographs. This is a useful quick guide to the mountain flora.

Salmon, J.T. 1994. *A Field Guide to the Trees of New Zealand*. Reed, Wellington.

Most tree species are figured, with colour photos. A good introductory book.

Stevenson, G. 1982. *Field Guide to Fungi*. University of Canterbury Press, Christchurch. O.P.

A fairly technical account and not liberally illustrated. It outlines the main groups of fungi, with considerable detail on some, and a key to genera of Agarics.

Taylor, M. 1981. *Mushrooms and Toadstools*. Mobil NZ Nature Series. Reed, Wellington. O.P.

A good popular coverage of the commoner NZ fungi, with beautiful paintings of each.

Wall, A. & Allan, H.H. 1950. *The Botanical Names of the Flora of New Zealand*. Whitcombe & Tombs, Christchurch. O.P.

This little book explains the meanings of names in use up to that time for families, genera and species. It also outlines a little about the origins and

history of the names. For those with an interest in words, this is a goldmine. Knowing the meaning of a name often helps in remembering it.

Wilson, H.D. 1978 (revised 1996). *Wild Plants of Mount Cook National Park*. Field Guide Publications and (new edition) Manuka Press, Christchurch.

A complete coverage of all vascular plants in the Park, with very clear monochrome drawings and brief text. A few lichens and bryophytes are figured. The book is extremely useful as a guide to plants of the central Southern Alps. Many of the species extend further.

Wilson, H.D. 1982. *Stewart Island Plants*. Field Guide Publications, Christchurch.

The flora is fully covered. The illustrations are mainly monochrome drawings, but some are in colour. Although Stewart Island is remote from Canterbury this flora is relevant to us because it illustrates many woody plants and herbs, native and introduced, that occur here. Meanings of plant names are explained.

Wilson, H.D. & Galloway, T. 1993. *Small-leaved Shrubs of New Zealand*. Manuka Press, Christchurch.

This book recognises that some of the more difficult woody plants to identify are those with small leaves. Shrubs and juveniles of some tree species are covered, with a key, brief descriptions and clear drawings of many species. A must for keen field botanists.