Resource List for Native Pollinators and Plants

This list of books, publications and web sites is far from comprehensive. However, I am familiar with each resource listed; and where appropriate, I have included a description of important features. Some resources can fit under multiple categories. *- David Redhage*

Updated 2025.10.02

**** marks resources that are particularly good for Oklahoma.***

Plant Identification Guides

Arkansas Wildflowers. Don Kurz. Tim Ernst Publishing. Cave Mountain, AR. ISBN 9781882906710. 2010. 256 p.

Central Region Seedling ID Guide for Native Prairie Plants. USDA-NRCS Elsberry Plant Materials Center and Missouri Department of Conservation. 2007.
Handheld guide with brief written descriptions along with photos.

Common Herbaceous Plants of Southern Forest Range. Harold E. Grelen and Ralph H. Hughes. USDA-Forest Service Southern Forest Experiment Station Research Paper S0-210. New Orleans, LA. 1984. 147 p.
Available for purchase as a print on demand document.

Essential Native Trees and Shrubs for the Eastern United States. By Tony Dove and Ginger Woolridge. Charlesbridge. 2018. ISBN. 9781623545031. 312 p.

****Field Guide to Oklahoma Plants: Commonly Encountered Prairie, Shrubland, and Forest Species* (2nd ed.).** Ronald J. Tyrl, Terrence G. Bidwell, Ronald E. Masters, and R. Dwayne Elmore. Oklahoma State University. Stillwater, OK. 2008. Stock #7506437. 664 p.
Black and white drawings w/ state map of range and plant description.

Forest Plants of the Southeast and Their Wildlife Uses. James H. Miller and Karl V. Miller. Southern Weed Science Society. 1999. ISBN 0-9673140-0-3. 454 p.
Covers trees, shrubs and flowers and as the title indicates, their importance to wildlife.

****Forest Trees of Oklahoma: How to Know Them.*** Revised by Elbert L. Little, Jr. Oklahoma Forestry Division State Department of Agriculture Pub. #1, Revised Edition #13. Oklahoma City, OK. 1985. 205 p.

****The Guide to Oklahoma Wildflowers.*** Patricia Folley. University of Iowa Press. 2011. ISBN-13: 978-1-60938-046-5. 238 p.
Most plant descriptions indicate whether it is native or introduced, which I have found lacking in some other guides. It also indicates if a plant is more common in the eastern or western parts of Oklahoma - important to know for planting success.

Invasive Plants: Guide to Identification and the Impacts and Control of Common North American Species. Sylvan Ramsey Kaufman and Wallace Kaufman. Stackpole Books. Mechanicsburg, PA. ISBN 978-0-8117-3365-6. 458 p.
A good guide to help identify potential problem plants.

***Jewels of the Plains* (Revised Edition).** Claude A. Barr. The University of Minnesota Press. 1983. ISBN 978-0-8166-9801-1. 296 p.

***Missouri Wildflowers* (6th ed.).** Edgar Denison. Missouri Department of Conservation. 2008. ISBN 978-1-887247-59-7. 280 p.

National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Wildflowers – Eastern Region. William A. Niering and Nancy C. Olmstead. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. 1995. 887 p.

There is a western guide in this series.

***National Audubon Society Field Guide to Wildflowers – Western Region* (Chanticleer Press Edition).** ISBN 978-0-375-40233-3. 862 p.

***North American Range Plants* (5th ed.).** James Stubbendieck, Stephan L. Hatch, and Charles H. Butterfield. University of Nebraska Press. Lincoln, NE. 1997. ISBN 0-8032-9243-0. 500 p.

Oklahoma Native Plants: A Guide to Designing Landscapes to Attract Birds and Butterflies. By Conni Scorthorn with Brian Patric. The Roadrunner Press. 2019. ISBN 9781950871011. 105 p.

****Ozark Wildflowers: An Ecological Guide to Flowering Plants in the Region*** by Thomas E. Hemmerly. University of Georgia Press. Athens, GA. 2002. ISBN 0-8203-2337-3. 240 p.
While the title says Ozarks, this guide also covers the Ouachita Mountains of Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Ozark Wildflowers-A Field Guide to Common Ozark Wildflowers. Don Kurz. Falcon Publishing. 1999. ISBN 1-56044-730-3. 262 p.

****Pasture and Range Plants.*** Phillips Petroleum Company. Bartlesville, OK. 1963. Library of Congress Card No. 63-11000. 176 p.
Old publication with color plates of plants. Indicates how the plants respond to grazing management. Very good resource for Oklahoma prairie plants.

Shrubs and Woody Vines of Missouri. Don Kurz. Missouri Department of Conservation. ISBN 1-887247-12-2. 1997. 387 p.

The Southeast Native Plant Primer. Larry Mellichamp and Paula Gross. Timber Press. 2020. ISBN 9781604699913. 256 p.

The Sunflower Family: A Guide to the Family Asteraceae in the Contiguous United States. Richard Spellenberg and Naida Zucker. Botanical Research Institute of Texas Press. 2019. ISBN 9781889878652. 574 p.

****Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers: A Field Guide.*** Doug Ladd. Falcon Publishing. Helena, MT. 1995. ISBN 1-56044-299-9. 262 p.

Texas Range Plants. Stephan L. Hatch and Jennifer Pluhar. Texas A&M University Press College Station Texas. 1993. ISBN 0-89096-538-2 pp. 326

****Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines: A Pictorial Guide.*** Russell L. Stevens and Chuck R. Coffey. The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation Agricultural Division. Ardmore, OK. 2008. ISBN 978-0-9754303-2-3. 138 p.

Great photos with good descriptions. Be sure to visit the corresponding website..

Weeds of Arkansas Lawns, Turf, Roadsides, Recreation Areas: A Guide to Identification (MP 169). Ford L. Baldwin and Edwin B. Smith. Cooperative Extension Service, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. 71 p.

Useful for identifying small flowering weeds in your lawn.

****Weeds of the Great Plains.*** James Stubbendieck, Michell J. Coffin, and L.M. Landholt. Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Lincoln, NE. 2003. ISBN 0939870-00-5. 605 p.
Good color guide which lists origin of each plant.

Weeds of the South. Charles T. Bryson and Michael S. DeFelice, eds. University of Georgia Press. Athens, GA. 2009. ISBN-13 978-0-8203-3046-4. 468 p.

***Weeds of the West* (5th ed.).** Tom D. Whitson, ed. Western Society of Weed Science. 1996. ISBN 0-941570-13-4. 630 p.

Wildflowers: A Golden Guide. Herbert S. Zim and Alexander C. Martin. St. Martin's Press. 1987. ISBN 1-58238-162-3. 159 p.

***Wildflowers of Arkansas* (6th ed.).** Carl G. Hunter. Ozark Society Foundation. Little Rock, AR. ISBN 0-912456-16-7. 2001. 296 p.

Wildflowers of the Atlantic Southeast. By Laura Cotterman, Damon Waitt, and Alan Weakley. Timber Press. 2019. ISBN 9781604697605. 510 p.

Wildflowers of the Southeast Field Guide. By Jaret C. Daniels and Stan Tekiela. Adventure Publications, Inc. 2012. ISBN 9781591933519. 428 p.

Wildflowers of the Western Plains. Zoe Merriman Kirkpatrick. University of Texas Press. 1992. ISBN 0-292-79062-7 240 p.
One of the few books covering the wildflowers of western Oklahoma and Texas

General Plant/Landscaping Guides

100 Plants to Feed The Bees. The Xerces Society. Storey Publishing. North Adams, MA. 2016. ISBN 978-1-61212-701-9. 240 p.

100 Plants to Feed the Monarch. Xerces Society. Storey Publishing. North Adams, MA. 2021. ISBN 978-1-63586-273-7. 288 p.

Armitage's Native Plants for North American Gardens. Allan M. Armitage. Timber Press. Portland, OR. 2006. ISBN 978-0-88192-760-3. 451 p.

The Bee-friendly Garden. Kate Frey and Gretchen Lebuhn. Ten Speed Press. 2016. ISBN 978-1-60774-763-5. 213 p.

Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants. Douglas W. Tallamy. Timber Press. Portland, OR. 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-88192-992-8. 358 p.

The Gardener's Guide to Prairie Plants. Neil Diboll and Hilary Cox. University of Chicago Press. 2023. ISBN 978-0-22680-593-1. 636 p.

Gardening for Butterflies. The Xerces Society. Timber Press. Portland, OR. 2016. ISBN 978-1-60469-598-4. 287 p.

Gardening With Native Plants of the South. Sally Wasonwski. Taylor Trade Publishing. Lanham, MD. 2010. ISBN 978-1-58979-423-8. 201 p.

Gardening with Prairie Plants: How to Create Beautiful Native Landscapes. Sally Wasowski. University of Minnesota Press. Minneapolis, MN. 2002. ISBN 978-0-8166-3087-5. 285 p.

****Landscaping for Wildlife-A Guide to the Southern Great Plains.*** Jeremy D. Garrett. University of Oklahoma Press. Norman, OK. 2003. ISBN 0-8061-3489-5. 209 p.

Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants. C. Colston Burrell. Brooklyn Botanic Garden. 2011. ISBN 978-1-889538-77-8. 239 p.

Native Plant Gardening for Birds, Bees and Butterflies: South. Jaret C. Daniels. Adventure Publications. Cambridge, MN. 2022. ISBN 978-1-64755-188-9. 280p.
Covers basic landscape design and planting methods. Lists basic pollinators. Most of the book is focused on southern native plants.

Urban & Suburban Meadows-Bringing Meadowscaping to Big and Small Spaces. Catherine Zimmerman. Matrix Media Press. Silver Spring, MD. 2010. ISBN 978-0-9844560-0. 271 p.

Waterwise Plants for Sustainable Gardens-200 Drought-Tolerant Choices for All Climates. Lauren Springer Ogden and Scott Ogden. Timber Press. Portland, OR. 2011. ISBN-13 978-1-60469-169-6. 247 p.

Propagation Guides

100 Easy-To-Grow Native Plants Revised Edition. Lorraine Johnson. Firefly Books. Buffalo, NY. 2009. ISBN-13 978-1-55407-453-2 pp. 160

Collecting, Processing and Germinating Seeds of Wildland Plants. James A. Young and Cheryl G. Young. Timber Press. 1986. ISBN 0-88192-057-6 236 p.

Gardening With Native Wild Flowers. Samuel B. Jones, Jr., and Leonard E. Foote. Timber Press. Portland, OR. 1990. ISBN 0-88192-175-0. 195 p.

Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers. Harry R. Phillips. The University of North Carolina Press. 1985. ISBN 0-8078-4131-5. 331 p.

Native Perennials for the Southeast. Peter Loewer. Cool Springs Press. Nashville, TN. 2004. ISBN 1-59186-121-7. 192 p.

Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines- A Guide to Using Growing and Propagating North American Woody Plants. William Cullina. Houghton-Mifflin Company. 2002. ISBN-13 978-0-618-09858-3. 354 p.

The New England Wild Flower Society Guide to Growing and Propagating Wildflowers of the United States and Canada. William Cullina. Houghton-Mifflin Company. 2000. ISBN 0-395-96609-4. 322 p.

Some plants listed are more successful in the northern prairie regions and the northeast, but many work well in Oklahoma.

Pollinators

***Arkansas Butterflies and Moths* (2nd ed.).** Lori A. Spencer. Ozark Society Foundation. Little Rock, AR. 2014. ISBN 978-0-912456-27-2. 314 p.

****Attracting Native Pollinators- The Xerces Society Guide.*** Eric Mader, Matthew Shepherd, Mace Vaughn, Scott Hoffman Black and Gretchen LeBuhn. Storey Publishing. North Adams, MA. 2011. ISBN 978-1-60342-695-4. 371 p.
Very good resource for knowledge on native pollinators.

Bee Basics: An Introduction to Our Native Bees. Beatriz Moissett, Ph.D., and Stephen Buchmann, Ph.D. USDA Forest Service and Pollinator Partnership FS-960. 2010. pp. 40 p.

Bee Conservation: Evidence for the Effects of Interventions. Lynn V. Dicks, David A. Showler, and William J. Sutherland. Pelagic Publishing. Exeter, UK. 2010. ISBN 978-1-907807-00-8. 139 p.

Bees: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide. Heather Holm. Pollinator Press, LLC. 2017. ISBN 9780991356355 224 p. *From the cover: "Includes tree, shrub, and perennial plant profiles for the Midwest, Great Lakes, and Northeast regions."*

****The Bees In Your Backyard: A Guide to North America's Bees.*** Joseph S. Wilson and Olivia Messinger Carril. Princeton University Press. Princeton, NJ. 2016. ISBN 978-0-691-16077-1. 288 p.
Excellent guide for native bees. This is not a general ID guide. While the terminology used may be more than the average gardener needs, it is presented in a way that is accessible to anyone willing to put in the effort.

Bees, Wasps, and Ants: The Indispensable Role of Hymenoptera in Gardens. Eric Grissell. Timber Press. Portland, OR. 2010. ISBN 978-0-88192-988-1. 335 p.

****Bumble Bees of North America: An Identification Guide.*** Paul Williams, Robbin Thorp, Leif Richardson, and Sheila Colla. Princeton University Press. Princeton, NJ. 2014. ISBN 978-0-691-15222-6. 208 p.

Butterflies and Moths: A Golden Guide. Robert T. Mitchell and Herbert S. Zim. St. Martin's Press. 1990. ISBN 1-58238-136-4. 160 p.

****Butterflies of Oklahoma, Kansas, and North Texas.*** John M. Dole, Walter B. Gerard and John M. Nelson. University of Oklahoma Press. 2004. ISBN 0-8061-3554-9. 282 p.
Excellent book for Oklahoma. Gives the host plant species.
Butterfly Gardens: Luring Nature's Loveliest Pollinators to Your Yard. Alcinda Lewis, ed. Brooklyn Botanic Garden Publications. Brooklyn, NY. 1995. ISBN 0-945352-88-3. 111 p.

Caterpillars: The concise field guide to 120 common caterpillars of North America. Amy Bartlett Wright. Houghton Mifflin Company. 1993. ISBN 0-395-91184-2 128 p.

Caterpillars in the Field and Garden: A Field Guide To The Butterfly Caterpillars of North America. Thomas J. Allen, Jim P. Brock, and Jeffrey Glassberg. Oxford Press 2005. ISBN 978-0-19-514987-6. 232 p.

Caterpillars of Eastern North America: A Guide to Identfication and Natural History (Princeton Field Guides.) David L. Wagner. Princeton University Press. 2005. ISBN 0-691-12143-5. 512 p.

Common Native Bees of the Eastern United States. Heather Holm. Adventure Publications. Cambridge, MN. 2022. ISBN 978-1-64755-158-2. 37 p.
This is a small field guide with heavy stock pages. Pages are not numbered. It is meant as a rapid ID guide for field use.

Common Bees of Eastern North America. Messinger Carril, Olivia, and Joseph S. Wilson. Princeton University Press. 2021. ISBN 9780691218694. 288 p.

Farming with Native Beneficial Insects: Ecological Pest Control Solutions. The Xerces Society Guide. Eric Lee-Mader, Jennifer Hopwood, Lora Morandin, Mace Vaughan, and Scott Hoffman Black. Storey Publishing, LLC. 2014. ISBN 978-1-61212-283-0. 257 p.

A Field Guide to Eastern Butterflies (Peterson Field Guides). Paul A. Opler and Vichai Malikul. Houghton Mifflin Company. 1992. ISBN 0-395-90453-6. 486 p.

The Forgotten Pollinators. Stephen L. Buchmann and Gary Paul Nabhan. Island Press/Shearwater Books. Washington, D.C. 1996. ISBN 1-55963-353-0. 292 p.

How to Manage the Blue Orchard Bee As an Orchard Pollinator (Sustainable Agriculture Network SARE Handbook Series Book 6). Jordi Bosch and William Kemp. USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education. 2001. ISBN 1-888626-06-2. 88 p.

Humblebee Bumblebee: The Life Story of the Friendly Bumblebees and Their Use by the Backyard Gardener. Brian L. Griffin. Knox Cellars Publishing. Bellingham, WA. 1997. ISBN 0-9635841-3-8. 112 p.

The Life Cycles of Butterflies: From Egg to Maturity, a Visual Guide to 23 Common Garden Butterflies. Judy Burris and Wayne Richards. Storey Publishing. 2006. ISBN 978-1-58017-617-0. 151 p.
Good book for children (and adults)

Manage Insects on Your Farm: A Guide to Ecological Strategies (USDA Sustainable Agriculture Network Handbook Series Book 7). Miguel A. Altieri and Clara I. Nicholls. USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education. 2010. Beltsville, MD. ISBN 1-888626-10-0. 119 p.

****Managing Alternative Pollinators: A Handbook for Beekeepers, Growers, and Conservationists***. Eric Mader, Marla Spivak, and Elaine Evans. USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education. 2010. Beltsville, MD. ISBN 978-1-933395-20-3. 162 p.

Mason Bee Revolution. Dave Hunter and Jill Lightner. Skipstone Press. 2016. ISBN 978-1-59485-963-2 154 p.

Milkweed, Monarchs and More: A Field Guide to the Invertebrate Community in the Milkweed Patch. (2nd ed.) Ba Rea, Karen Oberhauser and Michael A. Quinn. Base Relief, LLC. 2010. ISBN 978-0-9657472-3-3. 79 p.

Monarchs and Milkweed: A Migrating Butterfly, A Poisonous Plant, and Their Remarkable Story of Coevolution. Anurag Agrawal. Princeton University Press. 2017. ISBN 9780691166353. 283p.

Moths of Eastern North America. Charles V. Covell, Jr. Virginia Museum of Natural History Special Publication #12. 2005. ISBN 1-884549-21-7. 496 p.

Native Host Plants for Texas Butterflies. Jim Weber, Lynne Weber, and Roland H. Wauer. Texas A&M University Press. College Station, Texas. ISBN 978-162-34964-63. 2018. 243p.

Native Plants for Honeybees: Creating a Pollinator Garden With Biodiversity in Mind. Christopher D. Murrow. Self-published. 2014. ISBN 978-148-00110-38. 215 p.

Native Plants for Native Pollinators in Oklahoma. David Redhage and Maura McDermott. Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture. 2015. 50 p.

****The Natural History of Bumblebees: A Sourcebook for Investigations*** by Carol A. Kearns and James D. Thomason. University Press of Colorado. Boulder, CO. 2001. ISBN 0-87081-621-7. 130 p.

The Orchard Mason Bee: The Life History, Biology, Propagation, and Use of a Truly Benevolent and Beneficial Insect. Brian L. Griffin. Knox Cellars Publishing. Bellingham, WA. 1993. ISBN 0-9635841-0-3. 69 p.

***Pollination with Mason Bees: A Gardener's Guide to Managing Mason Bees for Fruit Production* (1st ed.).** Dr. Margriet Dogterom. Beediverse Books Coquitlam, BC. 2002. ISBN 0-9689357-0-2. 80 p.

Pollinator Conservation Handbook: A Guide to Understanding, Protecting, and Providing Habitat for Native Pollinator Insects. Matthew Shepherd, Stephen L. Buchmann, Mace Vaughan, and Scott Hoffman Black. The Xerces Society. Portland, OR. 2003. ISBN 0-9744475-0-1. 145 p.

Pollinator Friendly Gardening. Rhonda Fleming Hayes. Voyageur Press. 2015. ISBN978-0-7603-4913-7. 176 p.

****Pollinators of Native Plants: Attract, Observe and Identify Pollinators and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants.*** Heather Holm. Pollination Press, LLC. Minnetonka, MN. 2014. 305 p.

The Solitary Bees: Biology, Evolution, Conservation. Bryan N. Danforth, Robert L. Minckley, and John L. Neff. Princeton University Press. 2019. ISBN 9780691168982. 472 p.

Wasps: A Guide for Eastern North America. Heather Holm. Pollination Press, LLC. Minnetonka, MN. 2021. ISBN 9780991356317. 415pp.

Seed Catalog/Nursery Sources

Bustani Plant Farm (Stillwater, OK)
http://www.bustaniplantfarm.com/store
Seasonal regional nursery open in the spring and fall. Plant pickup at nursery only.

Forest Farm (Williams, OR)
http://www.forestfarm.com/

Grasslander (Hennessey, OK)
http://www.grasslander.com/

Johnston Seeds (Enid, OK)

https://www.johnstonseed.com/

Missouri Wildflower Nursery (Jefferson City, MO)
http://mowildflowers.net/

Native American Seed (Junction, TX)
http://www.seedsource.com
Good source of seed for the Southern Central Plains region of the United States

OK Butterfly Plants (Tulsa, OK)
http://www.okbutterflyplants.com/

Prairie Moon Nursery (Winona, MN)
http://www.prairiemoon.com
Catalog is an excellent source of cultural information on growing and propagating various native prairie plants.

Wild Things Nursery
http://www.wildthingsnursery.com/
Oklahoma based. Website lists sales locations for the upcoming year. Good list of books, including many covering butterflies.

Wildseed Farms (Fredricksburg, TX)
www.wildseedfarms.com
Good catalog descriptions of species. Does carry seed for some non-native species (cosmos, corn poppy, chicory, etc.) which is indicated in the plant descriptions, so attention is necessary if only native plants are wanted.

Web Resources

*__The Biota of North America Program__ http://www.bonap.org/ (the home page) or
http://bonap.net/NAPA/Genus/Traditional/County#ref

Bug Guide
http://bugguide.net/node/view/15740

Digital Museum of Natural History
https://www.facebook.com/Digital.Museum.of.Natural.History/photos_stream
very good poster on bees

Discover Life
www.discoverlife.org/

Flora of Oklahoma Project
https://biosurvey.ou.edu/

Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture
http://kerrcenter.com

Lady Bird Johnston Wildflower Center (Austin, TX)
http://www.wildflower.org/

*__Noble Foundation__ (Ardmore, OK)

http://www.noble.org/apps/plantimagegallery/index.aspx
Great online plant photo resource. Names of plants of interest (common or scientific) need to be known in order to used the database. Several companion printed books are also available for purchase.

NRCS Technical Information
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/plantmaterials/technical/publications/?cid=stelprdb1044847

Okies for Monarchs
http://www.okiesformonarchs.org/

Oklahoma Native Plant Society
http://oknativeplants.org/

Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory
http://oknaturalheritage.ou.edu/

US Wildflowers
http://uswildflowers.com/wfquery.php?State=OK
The link is to the 'wildflowers of Oklahoma' section.

USDA Plants Fact sheets and Guides
https://plantsorig.sc.egov.usda.gov/java/factSheet

***Xerces Society**
http://www.xerces.org/