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## Review of *The Guide to Oklahoma Wildflowers* by Patricia Folley

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## BOOK REVIEWS

**The Guide to Oklahoma Wildflowers.** By Patricia Folley. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2011. xvii + 238 pp. Photographs, map, glossary, bibliography, index. \$39.95 paper.

Oklahoma is home to some 2,500 species of flowering plants. Patricia Folley has captured, in full color, some 200 striking and beautiful wildflowers. From the state wildflower (*Gaillardia pulchella*) to the state grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), this wildflower guide covers plants growing in the Rocky Mountain

foothills in the northwest to the cypress swamps of the southeast and a lot in between.

Each species is illustrated with at least two photos showing the entire plant in its habitat and a closeup of its flower. The text offers a short description, followed by the geographic area of the state where the species grows, flowering time, and typical habitat. Common and scientific names are provided, but not the family name. The organization of the book is taxonomic, with monocots first, then followed by dicots with families (not noted) and genera in phylogenetic order—an arrangement the nonbotanist is likely to find difficult to follow. An organization by flower color would have made using the book for identification purposes much easier. The color index in the back of the book is organized into four color groups, then alphabetically by common name. Unless you know the common name, finding your plant by flower color can take time.

As a native Oklahoman, I was disappointed not to find the state tree (redbud, *Cercis canadensis*) included. Surely the redbud—with its mass of striking pink flowers—is more colorful and noticeable than *Juncus marginatus* (grassleaf rush). Looking hard, I couldn't find the state floral emblem, the mistletoe (*Phoradendron serotinum*), either.

But if you love wildflowers—and Oklahoma's at that—then you'll find *The Guide to Oklahoma Wildflowers* worthwhile to have in your library and perhaps a second copy in your car.

**BARNEY LIPSCOMB**  
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Patricia Folley's beautifully photographed and carefully compiled Guide to Oklahoma Wildflowers fills this gap. Folley has photographed and described the two hundred wildflower species that are most commonly seen along roadsides and in parks throughout the state. Oklahoma contains vast plains, elevated rocky plateaus, and forested mountains. Botanizing one's way across the Sooner State reveals celestial lilies in the east, prickly poppies in the west, Dutchman's breeches in the northeast, large-flowered evening primrose in central and southwest areas, Indian pink in the southeast, walking-stick cholla in the Panhandle, and purple prairie clover statewide. Oklahoma is home to some 2,500 species of flowering plants. Patricia Folley has captured, in full color, some 200 striking and beautiful wildflowers. From the state wildflower (*Gaillardia pulchella*) to the state grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), this wildflower guide covers plants growing in the Rocky Mountain 81. 82. foothills in the northwest to the cypress swamps of the southeast and a lot in between. Each species is illustrated with at least two photos showing the entire plant in its habitat and a closeup of its flower. But if you love wildflowers-and Oklahoma's at that-then you'll find *The Guide to Oklahoma Wildflowers* worthwhile to have in your library and perhaps a second copy in your car. BARNEY LIPSCOMB Botanical Research Institute of Texas. Fort Worth, Texas. Patricia Folley's beautifully photographed and carefully compiled *Guide to Oklahoma Wildflowers* fills this gap. Folley has photographed and described the two hundred wildflower species that are most commonly seen along roadsides and in parks throughout the state. Oklahoma contains vast plains, elevated rocky plateaus, and forested mountains. Botanizing one's way across the Sooner State reveals celestial lilies in the east, prickly poppies in the west, Dutchman's breeches in the northeast, large-flowered evening primrose in central and southwest areas, Indian pink in the southeast, walking-stick cholla in the Panhandle, and purple prairie clover statewide. I find that photos in some books don't always show the plant from an angle that shows all the details of leaves and flower. This book does feature full page color photos (about 100 of these) and supplements them with drawings that may show different stages of the plant (berries or a related plant). The arrangement in this book is by plant families and includes descriptions that are useful aids in identification. The authors based the book on field work ranging from New Hampshire to Virginia. There's a glossary at the end, but I think some flower diagrams naming the parts would have helped. Patricia Folley's beautifully photographed and carefully compiled *Guide to Oklahoma Wildflowers* fills this gap. Folley has photographed and described the two hundred wildflower species that are most commonly seen along roadsides and in parks throughout the state. She provides at least two photos for each plant, showing the entire plant as it occurs in the wild, outside of cultivation, along with a close-up of its flower. Each plant is keyed to a particular geographical location and a particular family, and an index to colors is a further aid to identification.