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# Wildflowers Of Iowa Woodlands (Bur Oak Guide)



## Synopsis

This classic of midwestern natural history is back in print with a new format and new photographs. Originally published in 1979, *Wildflowers of Iowa Woodlands* introduced many naturalists to the beauty and diversity of the native plants of the wooded communities that once covered more than 6 million acres of the state. Now redesigned with updated names and all-new images, this reliable field companion will introduce woodland wildflowers to a new generation of outdoor enthusiasts in the Upper Midwest. The species accounts are accompanied by brilliant full-page color photographs by Larry Stone, Thomas Rosburg, and Carl Kurtz. In clear, straightforward, and accessible prose, authors Sylvan Runkel and Alvin Bull provide common, scientific, and family names; the Latin or Greek meaning of the scientific names; habitat and blooming times; and a complete description of plant, flower, and fruit. Particularly interesting is the information on the many ways in which Native Americans and early pioneers used these plants for everything from pain relief to insecticides to tonics. Iowa's original savannas, woodlands, and forests were cleared with amazing thoroughness, yet enough beauty and diversity remain to give joy to hikers, birders, and mushroomers. *Wildflowers of Iowa Woodlands* will inspire both amateurs and professionals with the desire to learn more about the wonders of today's woodlands.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"In the tradition that only Sy Runkel can claim, *Wildflowers of Iowa Woodlands* has long

provided plant enthusiasts with identification tips, habitat affinities, Native American and pioneer uses, and general ethnobotanical folklore of frequently observed wildflowers in the Midwest. The species represent a broad range of wooded environments, including dry rocky or sandy woodlands, oak savannas, mesic forests, and swamps and floodplain forests. This revised edition, presented in a beautifully designed vertical format, has all-new color photographs and updated scientific names. It is a treasure chest of tidbits, a valuable companion for wandering naturalists and those family hikes in the woods. This is a book you'll find yourself using again and again.

•Thomas Rosburg, Drake University

Sylvan Runkel (1906–1995) was the coauthor of five books about midwestern wildflowers, including *Wildflowers of the Tallgrass Prairie* and *Wildflowers and Other Plants of Iowa Wetlands*. A vigorous promoter of conservation for many years, he was honored in 1996 by the dedication of the Sylvan Runkel State Preserve. Alvin Bull (1925–1982) was the coauthor of three books about midwestern wildflowers, including *Wildflowers of Indiana Woodlands* and *Wildflowers of Illinois Woodlands*. He was vice-president of Farm Progress Companies and editorial director for the *Indiana Prairie Farmer*, *Prairie Farmer*, *Wallaces Farmer*, and the *Wisconsin Agriculturist*.

I have found this guide useful when needing to identify wildflowers of Iowa. The only thing I'm disappointed with is that they don't list enough flowers! I use this book in conjunction with my *Wildflowers of Michigan Field Guide* by Stan Tekiela. (And, I really wish Tekiela would come out with a book for Iowa flowers!) *Wildflowers of Iowa Woodlands* would be easier to use if they had organised it better. It's not in alphabetical or color order, so you have to flip through the whole book to find the flower you've seen. It is also incomplete as I've seen many common flowers not listed. (That's where the Michigan book comes in handy as many species are shared). Despite the little annoyances, it is still a great book packed with lots of knowledge and lore. I especially like reading how the Native Americans and early pioneers used the different plants for medicinal and/or food purposes. It is very informative and gives you a general location idea of where you might see the particular flowers. The descriptions are detailed and the photos are crisp and helpful in aiding identification.

I'm an artist interested in native Iowa plants. I ran across this book in the library and keep checking it out, so I've decided to purchase it. It includes some scientific information if you know those things, and this newer edition has some great photos. As one reviewer mentioned, it is sometimes difficult

to imagine scale, but it has helped me to learn to identify many plants I see on my hikes. The book also includes a brief history of the plant, including what Native Americans and pioneers may have used the plant for (sometimes medicine, sometimes ritual). It includes poisonous plants that a hiker should avoid like poison ivy and poison oak.

This guide includes just about every species I have looked for. Wish it was organized better, maybe by color or bloom season. Alphabetical only helps when you know what you are looking for.

Great

:)

Updated version of an informative reference book. Photos are clear, although it would have been nice to have included a ruler type scale to the photos so that the size of the flowers could be imagined. Compact and rugged enough to carry.

Lots of nice photographs help to identify wild flowers. Very nice field guide to take with you on nature walks.

"Sylvan T. Runkel, best known as "Sy," is widely respected for his special ability to communicate with young people as well as adults in a warm and sensitive manner. He has helped plan conservation education programs, develop outdoor classrooms, and lay out nature trails...." Alvin F. (Al) Bull, at the time of his sudden and unexpected death in 1982, was vice-president of Farm Progress Companies and editorial director for Indiana Prairie Farmer, Prairie Farmer, Wallaces Farmer, and Wisconsin Agriculturist...." This book was designed to HELP THE CASUAL OBSERVER BECOME BETTER ACQUAINTED with the more interesting wildflowers of the state's woodlands..... "[from the book]

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