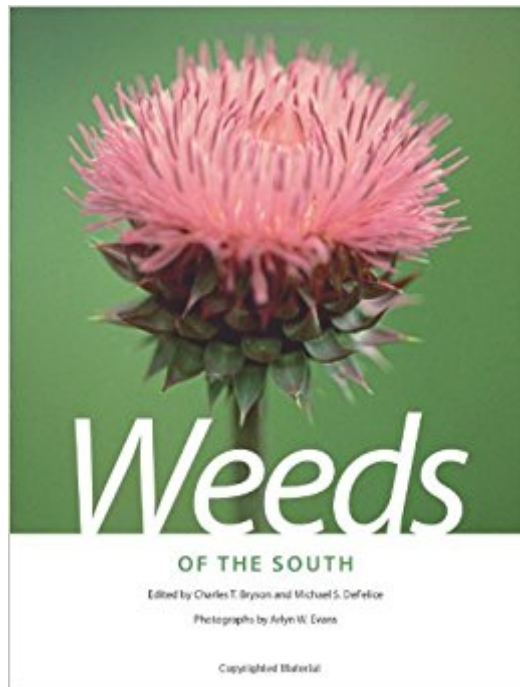


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# Weeds Of The South (Wormsloe Foundation Nature Book) (Wormsloe Foundation Nature Book Ser.)



## Synopsis

Weeds threaten the safe, efficient, and sustainable production of food, feed, fiber, and biofuel throughout the world. Featuring more than fifteen hundred full-color photographs, this handy guide provides essential information on four hundred of the most troublesome weedy and invasive plants found in the southern United States. Drawing on the expertise of more than forty weed scientists and botanists, the guide identifies each plant at various stages of its life and offers useful details about its origin, habitat, morphology, biology, distribution, and known toxic properties. The book also includes illustrations of the most common characteristics of plants and the terms used to describe them, a key to plant families, a glossary of frequently used terms, a bibliography, and an index of scientific and common plant names. Each species account includes: Up to four full-color photographs showing seed, seedling, plant, flower, and other unique plant features Distribution map For grasses, a line drawing of the collar (where the leaf joins the stem), an important identifying characteristic Scientific names, common names, and local synonyms of common names Vegetative characteristics for seedlings and leaves Special identifying features, reproductive characteristics, and toxic properties States covered (species distribution maps also show occurrences across the United States and Canada): Alabama Arkansas Florida Georgia Kentucky Louisiana Maryland Mississippi Missouri North Carolina Oklahoma South Carolina Tennessee Texas Virginia West Virginia

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Like most reviewers I was amazed by the wealth of photos. But when I looked more carefully the photos began to look downright strange. Flip through the photos and you find that the leaves of all of these plants are shown in only a very few shades of green. Page after page the green leaves will be the same rather muddy shade. The same is true for yellows and browns. Look at the seeds and you will find page after page with seeds the same color, etc. That this is not right is evident if you look at the photos of the seeds in particular. These are placed on a greenish textured background material. The color of this background changes markedly in the different photos while the seed colors remain the same. Normally a background like that would be used as a constant color reference to insure the seed colors are shown correctly but here it is backwards! This faked constancy of plant-part greens, yellows, and browns also extends to other plant part colors - blues, reds - to a lesser extent. The effect of this is to not only distort the targeted colors but other colors as well as a side effect. My son just sent a photo of a weed he was trying to identify. I immediately recognized it as "pigweed" from the plump, very pink stems. Looking it up in this book I found it as "prostrate pigweed" but I likely would never have found it at all if I did not know the name of the plant in the first place. The leaves are shown in an odd, murky shade of green in order to match many others in the book and this has resulted in the pink stems being shown as greenish tan against greenish-brown soil. Based on my several experiences so far, if you place any importance on recognition of plant color in your identifications, avoid this book.

I should have listened to the reviewer who said he could not identify the weeds in his area based on this book. I figured that he just did not know how to read the key information and was going just by the photos. But he was right: the book does not include many of the North Georgia herbaceous weeds that I was trying to identify, those that I could not find online information about. So this book is relegated to my reference shelf along with five other plant identification field guides and books. "Weeds" is well done for what it is, and no doubt it will be useful to farmers and those trying to maintain pristine lawns, but it did not answer my questions. It was a lot of money for something that did not suit my needs.

This book is a must have for Master Gardeners, do-it-yourself gardeners, naturalists, farmers, agricultural consultants, extension agents, anyone that works with weed identification. The images are excellent. The descriptions of weeds are easy to understand. Over 400 weed species are described in this outstanding reference guide.

I returned this book because it didn't have the strange weed that I was looking for. It did however, list watermelons and okra as weeds. It showed the seeds, the leaves of a sprouting new plant and the flowers of most but didn't show a mature plant with leaves which is what you would need for identification unless you happen to be around when it emerged, bloomed or went to seed. I was looking for a particular weed from a previously live sample (having tried all the medicinal herb and other herb books, the wild flower books, Plants of the Appalachians, etc.) which an old American Indian had called Moccasin Weed and given it to my father-in-law as a poison ivy cure which the family used for years but the weed is hard to find. In my research, I did discover Jewel Weed (not listed in this particular book) which is wild touch-me-not plant and is used for curing poison ivy and poison oak. I was trying to discover this plant's correct name since Moccasin Weed is not listed in any of the research books or web searches I tried. This book has great photography but falls short in what it was published for which is identifying weeds and not for a coffee table decoration. Water Melon and Okra are not weeds by any stretch of the imagination. They are edible vegetable annuals and if gone wild are wild edible veggies. They may or may not reseed themselves (both originally came from a tropical African climate).

Weeds of the South appears to be written for people who are already familiar with agricultural botany. An entire page is dedicated to each type of weed, so there is some detail about the plant's characteristics. The book is useful if you want to exterminate the weeds while they are just popping out of the ground, but not if you want to identify them at a distance when they're full-grown. Most of the photos are close-ups of the blooms, seeds, and seedling plants. The book describes the toxic properties of each type of weed, so if you raise grazing animals it will be helpful. The photos are exceptionally clear, but almost never show an entire plant. The last section covers weed grasses. I was not able to figure out how the book was organized and had to flip through all the pages to locate pictures that matched the weeds I had in my yard. Several of my weeds (I live in Georgia) weren't in the book, but my county extension agent was able to identify them for me.

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