

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Note that depending on dates of publication, *Flora of Australia* volumes may provide more up to date treatments than some State-specific printed resources. See <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/online-resources/flora/main/>

This section lists general cross-family resources, mainly of the 'plants-of-area' sort. For additional resources, see other sections of this bibliography (e.g. Weeds, Threatened Species, particular plant groups or habitats, Algae, Fungi).

Much traditional Indigenous biocultural knowledge from the Northern Territory (extending into WA in some cases) has been published in a series of books and booklets, mostly in the *Northern Territory Botanical Bulletin* series. As at July 2015, these have been published for 32 language groups, with 14 more in progress. Many of these have some utility in plant identification (along with a wealth of other knowledge), having good line drawings and in more recent cases good colour illustrations of some of the species treated, but minimal descriptive detail and no keys. Books in this series are not treated individually here, but see

<https://nt.gov.au/environment/native-plants/aboriginal-knowledge-plants-and-animals>, or for more details contact Glenn Wightman on 08 8999 4513 or email glenn.wightman@nt.gov.au.

NT Plant Information system

FloraNT: Northern Territory flora online

ELECTRONIC RESOURCE, ON-LINE: <http://eflora.nt.gov.au>.

Maintained by the Northern Territory Herbarium (2015 – ongoing). The system provides checklists and associated identification and information resources for NT plants (native, introduced and naturalised, and Threatened species). Browse by plant name to access fact sheets, PDFs of printed floras (including identification keys), and other information, or use Search functions on any combination of spatial attributes, plant name or plant characteristics including conservation status. Imagery is uneven as at August 2015, but will soon be supplemented by several thousand further images. Specimen label information from the NT herbarium is available for each species in abridged form (sheet number, date of collection, and geo-coordinates).

NT Herbaria with plant identification service

Northern Territory Herbarium

<http://www.lrm.nt.gov.au/plants-and-animals/herbarium/>

The Northern Territory Herbarium provides a plant identification service as well as information and advice on NT flora. These services are free to the public and organisations where the use is for non-commercial purposes; charges may apply in other cases, see website. Student access by prior arrangement.

There are two locations, with different scopes and contact details:

- **Palmerston**, Darwin (main Herbarium): *Scope*: native, naturalised and cultivated plants of the Northern Territory. *Postal*: PO Box 496, Palmerston NT 0831. *Phone*: 08 8999 4516. *Email* herbarium@nt.gov.au.
- **Alice Springs**: *Scope*: native and naturalised plants of the Centralian region. *Postal*: PO Box 1120, Alice Springs NT 0871. *Phone*: 08 8951 8791.

Submission of specimens: See <http://www.lrm.nt.gov.au/plants-and-animals/herbarium/identifying-plants> for downloadable *Identification Service Request* form, and for guidelines on how to collect and prepare plant samples for identification. Contact prior to submission is encouraged.

Self-help: Both the Palmerston and Alice Springs herbaria have public reference collections of native and naturalised plant species (Palmerston also has a cultivated plant reference set). Please make prior booking for access. At Palmerston, internal phytosanitation provisions apply and the reference room must be booked well in advance to allow adequate quarantine of plant specimens, which can take up to one week.

Northern Territory plant censuses

Northern Territory Herbarium (2014) [Northern Territory Plant Checklist – August 2014](#).

Northern Territory Herbarium, NT Department of Land Resource Management.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCE: ON-LINE (free PDF download): <http://www.lrm.nt.gov.au/plants-and-animals/herbarium/plant-species-list-and-fact-sheets>

A bare checklist of current names of NT vascular plants, with authors, NT conservation status codes, and flags for NT-endemic and introduced species. Now superseded by *FloraNT: Northern Territory flora online* (<http://eflora.nt.gov.au>).

Albrecht DE, Duguid AW, Coulson H, Harris MG & Latz PK (2007) Vascular plant checklist for the Southern Bioregions of the Northern Territory: nomenclature, distribution and conservation status. Second Edition. Northern Territory Herbarium, Alice Springs / NT Government, Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts.

262 pp. ISBN 1920772596.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCE: ON-LINE (free CSV or PDF download):

<https://nt.gov.au/environment/native-plants/identify-native-plants>

A now slightly dated but very comprehensive census for the NT south from about Elliott, with taxa listed in separate checklists: the full information is in the checklist ordered by family first and then alphabetised genera (currently accepted names and authors plus recent synonyms; sub-regional distribution; Territory, Commonwealth and ROTaP conservation codes; and life-form/growth-form information). This is cross-navigable by a separate checklist ordered alphabetically by genus and species.

Older censuses and checklists (now dated and non-comprehensive, but with embedded information that may still be of use):

Brennan K (1996) An annotated checklist of the vascular plants of the Alligator Rivers region, Northern Territory, Australia. Environmental Research Institute of the Supervising Scientist, Jabiru, NT. 136 pp. ISBN 0642243085.

Listing of about 1900 taxa, with scientific and common names, coded info as to life form and

habitat, and indicators of source and reliability of record. Includes all of Kakadu National Park.

Cousin SN (1989) Checklist of vascular plants of the Darwin region, Northern Territory, Australia. Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory, Darwin.. (Botanical bulletin 8) 54 pp. ISBN 0724518983.

Names and authors, ordered by family.

Liddle DT, Russell-Smith J, Brock J, Leach GJ, & Connors GT (1994) Atlas of the vascular rainforest plants of the Northern Territory. Australian Biological Resources Study, Canberra. (Flora of Australia supplementary series no. 3) 164 pp. ISBN 0642220905.

A distribution census with a considerable amount of tightly coded information about each species; distribution is shown on a map, with source of record, nominated voucher specimens, literature reference, endemism and conservation status, and life-form.

Northern Territory – Floras and Field Guides

Australian Tropical Herbarium & CSIRO Plant Industry (2010) Australian tropical rain forest plants. Edition 6, version 6.1.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCE: INTERACTIVE. ON-LINE: <http://www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/cd-keys/rfk/>

This information system runs on the Lucid 3.5 system and Matrix Java Applet - check site for system requirements. The key system is easy to use on-line after short familiarisation, even with limited plant material (many characters are available) and leads to very comprehensive species fact-sheets with descriptions and notes supported by good colour images of adult plants, colour scans of juveniles, and many leaf x-ray images to show venation patterns. The system covers the seed-plants (trees, shrubs, vines, herbs, grasses, sedges, palms, pandans and epiphytes) of the rainforests of northern Australia – the area of coverage is north of a line from Broome to Townsville.

RECOMMENDED

For the on-line interactive ‘Orchid module’ of this current product, see Jones et al. (2010) Australian tropical rainforest orchids, in Orchid section of this bibliography or go direct to <http://www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/cd-keys/orfk/index.html>

Booth R, Harwood RK, & Mangion CP (eds) (2001) Field key for the Monsoon Rainforest Flora of the Darwin Region. Jointly published by Northern Territory University Press; Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory (NT Botanical Bulletin No 28); and Key Centre for Tropical Wildlife Management, Northern Territory University [now Charles Darwin University] (Occasional paper No 2). ISBN-10: 1876248769; 95 pp; ISBN-13: 9781876248765.

Covers about 360 species of native and naturalised vascular plants for the Darwin region, and is useful for this community elsewhere in the NT as well. This is a key only (no separate species treatments). It uses an ‘artificial’ arrangement, based as much as possible on easy-to-interpret vegetative characters (habit, stems and leaves), with diagnostic line illustrations throughout.

Brennan K (1986) Wildflowers of Kakadu : a guide to the wildflowers of Kakadu National Park and the Top End of the Northern Territory. The Author, Jabiru, NT. 127 pp. ISBN 0958897107.

Selected native species only; excellent colour photos with short caption notes.

Brennan K (2007) A field key to the trees and shrubs in the Jabiru area. [Supervising Scientist Report no 187]. Office of the Supervising Scientist, Australian Government. ISSN 1325-1054; ISBN-10: 1921069015; ISBN-13: 9781921069017. **ELECTRONIC RESOURCE: PDF downloads from:**

<http://www.environment.gov.au/science/supervising-scientist/publications/ssr/field-key-trees-and-shrubs-jabiru-area>

Spiral-bound foolscap; simple keys using mainly vegetative characters; line illustrations and X-ray leaf images.

Brock J (2001) Native plants of northern Australia. New Holland, Frenchs Forest, NSW. 355 pp. ISBN 1876334673.

First published in 1988 by the author as *Top End native plants*. A guide to 450 species of the area, illustrated with about 700 good colour photos. but does not include grasses and sedges, and the plant names have not been updated since 1993, so use with other more recent resources. Also contains summary descriptions of the vegetation communities.

Brown G (2011) Wildlife of the Northern Territory - Volume 2: Top End wildflowers. Charles Darwin University press, Darwin NT. 96 pp. ISBN 9780980864120.

Pocket guide, including 200+ species but with very brief notes and fair-quality photos, mostly of flowers only.

Clark M & Traynor S (1987) Plants of the tropical woodland. Conservation Commission of NT, Darwin, NT. 132 pp. ISBN 0724506632.

Covers 64 species, with brief non-specialist descriptions, with limited notes and pictorially coded information on habitat and uses, with good line drawings.

Clifford HT & Cowie ID (1992) Northern Territory flowering plants: a key to families.

Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory, Darwin. (Northern Territory Botanical Bulletin no. 12) 93 pp. ISBN 0724519432; ISSN 03141810.

The keys to families are divided into dicots and monocots (under the accurate but - for the general reader - confusing names of Magnoliatae and Liliatae respectively) and are very user-friendly; the leads are short and the characters used are mostly easy. The second half of the book lists the families and their diagnostic features.

Cowie ID, Short PS & Osterkamp Madsen M (2000) Floodplain flora: a flora of the coastal floodplains of the Northern Territory, Australia. ABRIS, Canberra, ACT. (Flora of Australia supplementary series no. 10) 382 pp. ISBN 0642568081.

Comprehensive flora treatment, with full keys to families, genera and species. Good quality line illustrations. Covers ferns and fern allies, and flowering plants, and fresh water algae (to genus),. RECOMMENDED

Dunlop CR, Leach GJ & Cowie ID (1995) Flora of the Darwin region. Vol. 2. Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory, Darwin. (Northern Territory botanical bulletin no. 20) 261

pp. ISBN 0724528911.

This volume (which is companion to vol. 1, Short & Cowie 2011) is in both hardcopy book form and as an **ELECTRONIC RESOURCE, ON-LINE (free PDFs)** at http://www.lrm.nt.gov.au/plants-and-animals/herbarium/darwin_flora_online. Standard flora format of keys, short descriptions, and brief distributional and ecological information, usefully supplemented by selected references, good line illustrations, and some good colour photos. This volume includes the legume families, Proteaceae, Melastomataceae, Combretaceae, Myrtaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Viscacaceae, and a few others. Keys, descriptions, line drawings. Now largely superseded by (and absorbed by) the **ON-LINE ELECTRONIC RESOURCE FloraNT** (regional floras tab): <http://eflora.nt.gov.au/regionalecologicalfloras?region=FDR>

Greig D (2002) A photographic guide to wildflowers of outback Australia. New Holland Publishers, Frenchs Forest, NSW. 144 pp. ISBN 1864368055.

A handy but very general guide to 250 species of a huge area of the inland, in long pocket format. Small fair-quality colour photos, with very brief plain-English descriptions and notes.

Jessop J (ed.) (1981) Flora of Central Australia. Reed, Sydney. 537 pp. ISBN 0589502262.

Now badly dated but still useful for the area south of Newcastle Waters. Comprehensive keys and botanical descriptions, with a few line illustrations..

King P (ed.) (1986) Common plants of Central Australia. Northern Territory Government Printer, Palmerston, NT. 64 pp. ISBN 0724504842.

One of a growing series of "Plant identikit", illustrated pocket sized booklets for various regions. Moderately useful illustrations and brief descriptions of 42 species, with some notes on confusable species.

Latz P (1995) Bushfires and bushtucker : Aboriginal plant use in Central Australia. IAD Press, Alice Springs, NT. 400 pp. ISBN 0949659835.

Not primarily an identification guide, but includes descriptions and line drawings (and some colour plates) for 250 plant species, with notes on Aboriginal uses. Also general chapters on climate, ecology, and fire.

Latz P (1999) Pocket bushtucker: a field guide to the plants of Central Australia and their traditional uses. IAD Press, Alice Springs, NT. 215 pp. ISBN 1864650230.

Pocket format, covering almost 200 species, organised by growth form, with short descriptions, notes on ecology and uses, names in several Aboriginal languages, and fair sketch-quality line drawings, with a very few colour photos. The area of geographic coverage is the Northern Territory within a few hundred kilometres of Alice Springs.

Moore P (2005) A Guide to Plants of Inland Australia. Reed New Holland. 504 pp. ISBN 9781876334864.

A very useful field guide to about 900 species, albeit over a very large swathe of the continent, with short descriptions and fair-quality colour photos. Introductory sections outline the evolutionary history of the region and broad vegetation types.

Morcombe M & Morcombe I (1970) Wildflowers of the North and Centre. Landsdowne Press / Periwinkle, Melbourne. 111 pp. SBN 701804203.

Dating from a time when there were few or no field guides for the NT, this is now a historical interest item only. It covers 83 species with short descriptions and good colour photos.

Napier D, Smith N, Alford L & Brown J (2012) Common plants of Australia's Top End. Gecko Books, South Australia (ph. +61 (8) 8351 1688). 77 pp. ISBN 9780980852523.

Pocket guide to 37 common or conspicuous species Short plain-language descriptions and notes; very good colour photos.

Napier D, Smith N, & Alford L (2012) Common native plants – Victoria River District and Northern Barkly (the Territory's Savannah Way). Gecko Books, South Australia (ph. +61 (8) 8351 1688). 77 pp. ISBN 9780980852530.

Pocket-sized guide to 37 common or conspicuous species Short plain-language descriptions and notes; very good colour photos.

Purdie J, Materne C & Bubb A (2008) A field guide to plants of the Barkly region, Northern Territory. Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association (PO Box 36, Tennant Creek, NT 0861). 383 pp. ISBN 9780724571161.

Sturdy spiral-bound guide to a large number of the native and introduced plants of the region, with very brief descriptions and notes (including weediness and toxicity), and fair quality colour photos.

Short PS & Cowie IE (eds) (2011) Flora of the Darwin region. Vol. 1. [Northern Territory Botanical Bulletin No. 37, ISSN 0314-1810]. ISBN: 9781921519949 (PDF).

This volume (companion to vol. 2, Dunlop Leach & Cowie 1995) is in a standard flora format of keys, short descriptions, and brief distributional and ecological information, usefully supplemented by selected references, good line illustrations, and some good colour photos. This volume includes the ferns and allies, gymnosperms, and a variety of angiosperm families.

Now largely superseded by (and absorbed by) the **ON-LINE ELECTRONIC RESOURCE FloraNT** (regional floras tab): <http://eflora.nt.gov.au/regionalecologicalfloras?region=FDR>

Urban A (1990) Wildflowers and plants of Central Australia. Southbank Editions, Melbourne. 240 pp. ISBN 0949318035.

Compact field guide, good colour photos with short plain-language descriptions.

van Oosterzee P (1995) A field guide to Central Australia : a natural history companion for the traveller. Reed, Chatswood, NSW. 184 pp. ISBN 0730104796.

General-interest guide to common and noteworthy plants, animals, and landforms. For the plants covered, very short descriptions are given, with adequate to good colour photos.

Weakley L (1987) The Society for Growing Australian Plants guide to gardening in the dry tropics. Society for Growing Australian Plants, Townsville Branch, Townsville, Qld. 245 pp. ISBN 0909830347.

Not an identification guide, but a listing of some 400 native species of horticultural interest, with

brief descriptions and some line drawings.

Wheaton T (ed.) (1994) Plants of the northern Australian rangelands. Northern Territory Department of Lands, Housing and Local Government, Darwin. 143 pp. ISBN 0724516352.

Covers 140 toxic, weed, and fodder species, mainly forbs, grasses, and herbs, with some shrubs. Plain-language descriptions and good colour photos.

Wightman G & Andrews M (1989) Plants of Northern Territory monsoon vine forests. Volume 1. Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory, Darwin. 163 pp. ISBN 072450687X.

Contains a brief introduction to the floristics, structure and ecology of these important communities, and then one page treatments arranged by growth form (trees, shrubs, climbers, etc). A brief description of each, with habitat and distribution statements, local occurrences, and notes on uses and ecology, accompanied by fair-quality line drawings. No keys, and not comprehensive, now fully superseded by *Australian Tropical Herbarium & CSIRO Plant Industry (2010) Australian tropical rain forest plants*.