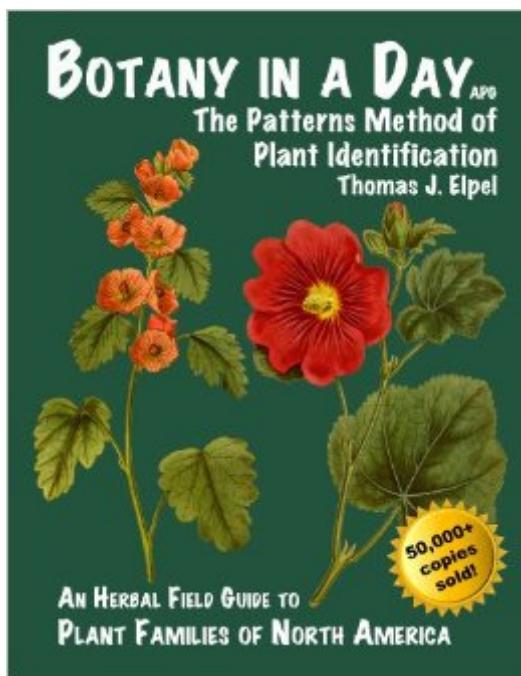


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# Botany In A Day: The Patterns Method Of Plant Identification



## Synopsis

Botany in a Day, now available in a full-color version, is the plant identification method that thousands have used and learned. Looking for a faster, easier, and engaging way to identify plants? Related plants have similar characteristics, and they often have similar uses. Rather than learning new plants one-at-a-time, it is possible to learn them by the hundreds, based on plant family patterns. Each family of related plants has unique patterns for identification. Learn to recognize these patterns, and discover them again and again in the plants you encounter. It is possible to instantly recognize a plant never before seen, and in many cases, to know its edible or medicinal properties on the spot—even before you have identified it down to the species! Botany in a Day is changing the way people learn about plants. A one-day tutorial introduces eight of the world's most common plant families, applicable to more than 45,000 species of plants. Master these eight patterns and have the skills to recognize an astonishing number of plants on any continent. Add to your repertoire by keying out entirely unknown plants and learning additional family patterns. Botany in a Day is principally written for North America, but used and adored by readers all over the world. It is used as a textbook in numerous universities, high schools, and herbal schools. This book is widely used in nature programs and promoted in national parks. Botany in a Day is your passport connection to nature and discovering the amazing world of plants!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Botany in a Day provides an excellent overview to field botany. By learning plant characteristics by family, the reader can more quickly identify their plant by identifying the patterns each plant family

presents. The book provides a page or two (or more!) on dozens of the most common families in the northern half of the US. Each plant family section contains additional information about the plant genera represented in this family. The keys to plant families allow the reader to quickly determine what section to turn to. This book is best coupled with a plant field guide to individual species that is grouped by family. You can use the Botany in a Day information to narrow your selection to the family and the field guide to identify the specific species. I highly recommend this book to both lay and professional people who work with plants.

This is the most comprehensive, thoughtful, well written book I know of on plant identification and their subsequent utilization as a resource be it food, rope or medicine. I am in awe at the depth of experience the author has with the plants in the book. The grouping and classification is clear and interesting. The patterns used to identify are within reach of anyone, its as if I've been given a key to unlock some of the beautiful mysteries of nature. I have a deeper appreciation and understanding of nature. Now I am truly participating in nature. So far it has allowed me to teach my kids (3 and 5) more about plants than I learned in 25 years! I love this book. I appreciate the Medicinal Properties of Plants section which has enough detail for a chemist but is understandable to the layperson as well. The entire book is written like that; professional or layperson will get a profound lesson. Its like an entire course on wild plants but written in a reference manual style with a very personal touch. This has given me a level of confidence I have always desired. Any human being should be given a copy of this book at birth! This should be in every library and taught in every school. If animals could read I would recommend it to them to. Peace

In the opening chapter, this book presents a wonderful simplified story of the evolution of plants, from a single cell to modern complex flowers. Both children and adults can gain a unique, intuitive understanding of this process from this explanation. My compliments to the author. He describes each plant family with interesting anecdotes and high quality line drawings. It's the first plant book whose lack of photographs didn't matter. Great tips for identifying families and individual plants have helped me enormously. Bravo!

This book ranks with such classics of plant identification as Agnes Chase's *A First Book of Grasses*, or Donald Culross Peattie's books on tree identification. Taking a bird's-eye view and then drilling down from there, it provides an overview of plant structure and evolution as well as many technical details relating to the structure and identification of plants. This would make an

excellent first book for anyone wanting to know more about the subject. After this, you can try some of the more detailed field manuals and then try to get your feet wet with some of the real taxonomic keys. These require some knowledge of plant anatomy, but there's nothing that difficult about that, except that having a good memory is a help. But really, it doesn't take that much smarts and anyone can learn to identify the most common trees, flowers, and even fungi in their area with a little time and patience.

This book does a great job of introducing the subject of botany, much more systematically than the typical "field guide." It concentrates on getting you started into the right family with identification, and also lists some of the notable and edible plants in each genus. It lists edibility, but given that you don't really have a solid identification of the plant, I wouldn't eat something based on it. He does at least list the source of the edibility info in parenthesis. And he's pulled info from 5 or more sources. I thought the intro and evolution of plants section in the beginning as well as the half dozen most common families section in the front was good, succinct and well written. There is a slightly confusing dichotomy key in the front too. The bulk of the guide is an overview of each family, generally one (or one subfamily) per page that gives a good information on the characteristics of the family and its constituent genera. Illustrations look like they're from Britton and Brown, with lots of notes added. For instance, there is a black and white line drawing and arrows pointing out "3 stamens, 2 carpels, etc." Text is slightly Montana-centric, but not overbearingly so. Overall, a great intro to plants in 200 pages.

Any interested in plant identification should consider *Botany In A Day: The Patterns Method Of Plant Identification* as an important guide. Thomas Elpel (Director of Hollowtop Outdoor Primitive School, Pony, Montana) deftly teaches the patterns method of plant identification, providing a method for learning about groupings of plants based on the idea that related plants have similar patterns for identification, and similar uses. Black and white line drawings accompany descriptions of different plant families and their identification processes.

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