

# BOOK REVIEW OF CITY TREES: ID GUIDE TO URBAN AND SUBURBAN SPECIES

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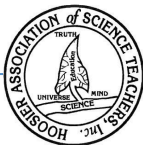
## Book Review of:

Schoon, K. J. (2011) City Trees: ID Guide to Urban and Suburban Species. Stackpole Press. <http://isbnplus.org/9780811707596>

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Author Kenneth J. Schoon has published a 112-page field guide to bring into the forefront 125 common urban and suburban tree species. This easy to carry and hold soft covered guide can be used to assist in tree and flora identification and nomenclature and systematic classification.

The first sixteen pages provide an overview of what a tree is, and the value of trees in urban and residential settings, and provide



tips for collecting leaf samples. The last pages of the book contain a glossary of words associated with trees, species index, and an index of leaf descriptions.

The guide portion of the book encompasses seventy pages and includes common tree names, its Latin name, high quality full color scans or pictures of leaves, flowers, pod, seed, fruit, nut, bark, cone, and/or needle, and information about the size, shape, color, and/or smell of each to aid in the identification process.

The species identification section of the book encompasses 25 pages that provide background information for each tree mentioned in the guide portion. Each of these entries are 50-100 words and include information on how to phonetically pronounce the Latin genus and species, reason for its American name, the natural habitat for each, its commercial use, relevant background information of the species in nature and society, and/or its hardiness zone.

The text does not use the International System of Unit (e.g. centimeters & meters) but instead uses Imperial Units (e.g. inches & feet). While this may be a familiar way of measuring it does not support contemporary use of measurement in science. However, this situation could provide opportunities for converting inches and feet to centimeters and meters.

The text is simply written but between English and Latin naming conventions and richly descriptive words to describe each species the level of reading does make this an ideal book for elementary learners. A readability score was determined by analyzing five



random blocks of text. Based on the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level and Gunning-Fog Score readability test the text was written for an eighth or ninth grade reading level.

Regardless of the book's strengths or weaknesses the text, 213 illustrations, and layout of the book is an inviting resource for all learners.

**Reference for this article:**

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