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Review of *The Guide to Oklahoma Wildflowers* by  
Patricia Folley

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## BOOK REVIEWS

**The Guide to Oklahoma Wildflowers.** By Patricia Folley. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2011. xvii + 238 pp. Photographs, map, glossary, bibliography, index. \$39.95 paper.

Oklahoma is home to some 2,500 species of flowering plants. Patricia Folley has captured, in full color, some 200 striking and beautiful wildflowers. From the state wildflower (*Gaillardia pulchella*) to the state grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), this wildflower guide covers plants growing in the Rocky Mountain

foothills in the northwest to the cypress swamps of the southeast and a lot in between.

Each species is illustrated with at least two photos showing the entire plant in its habitat and a closeup of its flower. The text offers a short description, followed by the geographic area of the state where the species grows, flowering time, and typical habitat. Common and scientific names are provided, but not the family name. The organization of the book is taxonomic, with monocots first, then followed by dicots with families (not noted) and genera in phylogenetic order—an arrangement the nonbotanist is likely to find difficult to follow. An organization by flower color would have made using the book for identification purposes much easier. The color index in the back of the book is organized into four color groups, then alphabetically by common name. Unless you know the common name, finding your plant by flower color can take time.

As a native Oklahoman, I was disappointed not to find the state tree (redbud, *Cercis canadensis*) included. Surely the redbud—with its mass of striking pink flowers—is more colorful and noticeable than *Juncus marginatus* (grassleaf rush). Looking hard, I couldn't find the state floral emblem, the mistletoe (*Phoradendron serotinum*), either.

But if you love wildflowers—and Oklahoma's at that—then you'll find *The Guide to Oklahoma Wildflowers* worthwhile to have in your library and perhaps a second copy in your car.

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