

BOOK REVIEW

New Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora of the Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, 3 vols. Henry A. Gleason. Hafner Press, New York. 1952 (3rd reprint in 1979). Indexed and Illustrated. \$99.95 per set (hardbound).

A new printing of this widely used 3 volume set has recently been released. Since the first printing of this authoritative work prepared by Henry A. Gleason (of the New York Botanical Garden) and collaborators, it has seen wide use and is recognized as an authoritative source for descriptions, illustrations, and keys to the flora of the Northeastern United States. The *New Britton and Brown*, prepared primarily for the interested non-professional botanist, contains much material that is of considerable use for professionals in the field. The Flora include plants from the Northeastern United States and the Southeastern part of Canada. The southern boundary of the region follows the borders of Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri and extends west to Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota. To the north, the Flora follow the northern boundaries of Minnesota and Michigan, and from the eastern end of Lake Superior it follows the 47th parallel across Ontario to the St. Lawrence River. The boundaries are fixed so as to be easily identifiable and to conform with well-known floristic divisions. A well-written 15 page introduction describes the floristic groups of the area covered and gives a short history of vegetation in the Northeastern states with a discussion of nomenclatural problems and generic classification of plants. This discussion is followed by 11 pages of general keys to the genera described in the 3 volumes. The printing is excellent, and the many black and white line drawings of species are of considerable assistance in understanding the flora. Volume 1 covers the Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, and Monocotyledoneae through the Orchidales. Volume 2 starts the Dicotyledoneae, and Volume 3 completes the Dicotyledoneae through the Compositae.

Each volume has a separate Table of Contents and an index that includes Orders, Families and genera except for Volume 3, which contains a general index covering the entire 3 volumes. The index has specific names for the larger genera only and widely accepted common English names of many of the plants described in the text. It is relatively easy to find most species by use of the Table of Contents or through the index's list of generic or common names. For unfamiliar plants, the general and generic keys and comparisons with the excellent illustrations are of great help in identifying species. The 3 volumes are printed on good paper with adequate margins and are attractively bound in green buckram, making them a fine addition to either the professional's or amateur's book shelf.