Pasture and Range Plants. Second edition by Robert A. Nicholson with a foreword by Edward H. Hammond and an introduction by G. W. Tomanek. 2006. Fort Hays State University, Fort Hays, KS, USA. XIV+176 p. US\$25.00. hardcover. ISBN 0-9712076-8-2.

This book takes me back to 1960, when I received six booklets containing photography and text about different types of pasture and range plants of the Great Plains. These booklets were given to me while in a 4-H range management club, and they were wonderful for a novice of plant identification. In them I found pictures of plants I knew as well as many that I would learn later. Developed with the financial support of Phillips Petroleum Company, these booklets were consolidated into a hard copy book in 1963. That book became a text for range-plant classes in the Midwest and was printed 11 times through 2001.

This book, the second edition of *Pasture and Range Plants*, is again a showcase for water-colored prints depicting important pasture and range plants of the Great Plains. The purpose of this book remains the same as those first six booklets, that is, to assist farmers, ranchers, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, and vocational agricultural students with practical knowledge concerning plant species of importance in the Great Plains of the United States. The book fulfills the purpose for which it was written. The colorful and aesthetically pleasing pictures are from an art collection of the 160 original paintings, now housed in the Steinberg Museum at Fort Hayes State University. The detail of the specific plant morphology achieved in this artwork is amazing, but it is not scientifically accurate. Again available for people who want to know more about the plants they see on rangeland or along roadsides of the Great Plains, this book is a starting point for people to put a name on some of the important and common plants of the Midwest.

The book starts with a discussion of root systems and their importance to healthy plant growth. This two-page section helps the reader understand basic information about how forage is produced above ground. The illustrations depict shoot and root counterparts. Understanding these basic elements and the effects of defoliation on plant health can then be utilized in making vegetation management decisions. This applies to range, forest, or wetland plants as well as home landscaping. The grass plant artwork should help the reader understand the details of the grass descriptions. The forb and shrub plant parts are not illustrated.

A section on woody plants and miscellaneous poisonous plants at the end of the book has pictures of the plants, a small description, and interesting and factual information about the specific plants and their poisons. Information is given concerning where the species grows, when it is dangerous, symptoms of poisoning, and general comments. This is good material to study if plant poisoning problems are suspected.

Pasture and Range Plants is a good book for display on the coffee table and for teaching basic principles and identification.

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