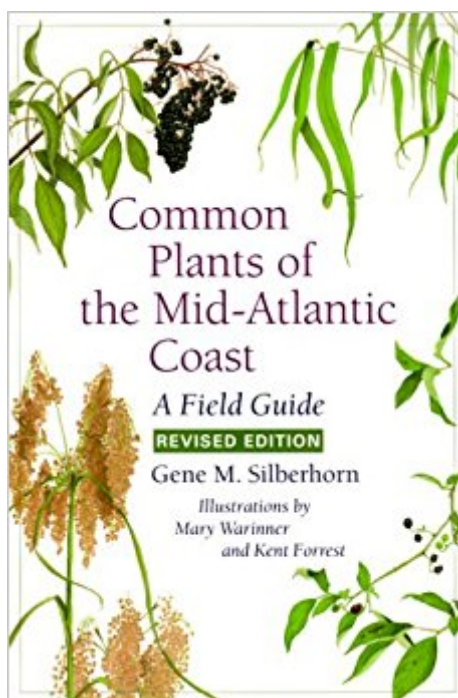


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# Common Plants Of The Mid-Atlantic Coast: A Field Guide



## Synopsis

Beggar's ticks and marsh pink. Tearthumbs and chairmaker's rush. Live oak, pitch pine, wild black cherry, sassafras, and loblolly pine. From eelgrass rooted in wrack lines on windswept back shores to hardy maritime forests sculpted by strong winds and salt spray, the Mid-Atlantic coast is rich with a variety of habitats and an abundance of common, if not always familiar, plants. In *Common Plants of the Mid-Atlantic Coast*, Gene M. Silberhorn provides a field guide to the plants found along the coast from Long Island Sound to North Carolina's barrier islands. This introduction to the fragile ecology and remarkable beauty of the flora of the coastal region was highly praised by reviewers when it was first published in 1982. This revised edition retains the features that earned it acclaim and provides a wealth of new information. The three sections of the book correspond to the natural divisions of the landscape: Section One covers beaches, dunes, and marine forests; Section Two includes salt and brackish marshes; and Section Three reviews plants found in tidal and nontidal freshwater wetlands. Each section of *Common Plants* begins with an introduction that describes the characteristics of the area and the flora to be found there. Individual plant entries follow. Delicate illustrations accompany facing page descriptions that aid in identification and provide concise background information, as well as delightful anecdotes. Plant entries now includes the subheadings: "Growth Habit and Diagnostic Characteristics," where the reader will find descriptions of general appearance, "Distribution," which tells where along the coast the plant is found, "Habitat," and, particularly important in this age of heightened environmental awareness, "Ecological Value/Benefits." The author has also added each plant's "Wetland Indicator Status," which estimates a species' frequency of occurrence in wetland habitats. Seventeen species have been added to this fully updated second edition. The appendices now include websites for various federal and state, coastal parks, refuges, and natural areas. An easy- to-use key helps readers identify plants in the field according to physical features.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This one will quickly become a standard work for professionals and casual beach strollers alike." -- Chesapeake Bay Magazine "A superb guidebook for amateur naturalists, students in a variety of ecology-oriented courses, and gardeners who wish to assess new species." -- American Horticulturist "Illustrates superbly with black-and-white drawings the many species of plants in this coastal region." -- Baltimore Sun "In a guide of pleasant surprises, perhaps the greatest discovery is that so much wildness and beauty -- things that are more and more associated with wilderness and remoteness -- can still be found so near at hand, nearly in the back pocket of most of the large cities of the mid-Atlantic." -- Philadelphia Inquirer --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Will quickly become a standard work for professionals and casual beach strollers alike." (Chesapeake Bay Magazine) "In a guide of pleasant surprises, perhaps the greatest discovery is that so much wildness and beauty -- things that are more and more associated with wilderness and remoteness -- can still be found so near at hand, nearly in the back pocket of most of the large cities of the mid-Atlantic... [Silberhorn] has arranged his guide much like the coastal landscape itself, moving naturally from beaches to dunes and marine forests, then to salt and brackish marshes, and finally to the plants of the freshwater wetlands." (Philadelphia Inquirer) "A superb guidebook for amateur naturalists, students in a variety of ecology-oriented courses, and gardeners who wish to assess new species." (American Horticulturist) "Illustrates superbly with black-and-white drawings the many species of plants in this coastal region." (Baltimore Sun)

Decent field guide. I almost gave it 3 stars, but it has definitely helped me on forays to coastal SC, NC, and VA. I believe the book was written in/for tidewater VA, so keep that in mind when buying. Silberhorn has a pretty good key to help you figure out the plants, pretty decent line drawings, and pretty good descriptions of plants. It is generally sorted into beach, marsh, and wetlands. It covers a good number of plants, but you will definitely run into some not present in the book. The ecological

descriptions are somewhat limited, but still useful. Overall a pretty good, but not great book.

Although this is certainly not a comprehensive guide book, but some good basic info. Excellent illustrations, interesting organization. Good background info, not a field guide.

why so many drawings of flowering plants WITHOUT their flowers? Some nice illustrations

I'm always surprised to find I'm the first to review a book. However, aside from the pages not being weather resistant (an obvious flaw for a "field book") this is an excellent book on the subject.

Separated by section for plants of the beach, marshes, and wetlands. With very many species depicted in fine line drawings, and comes with a very helpful "key to common plants". The guide explains where you would expect to find specific plants, their distribution, habitat, and ecological benefit. A welcome addition to my collection of nature books.

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