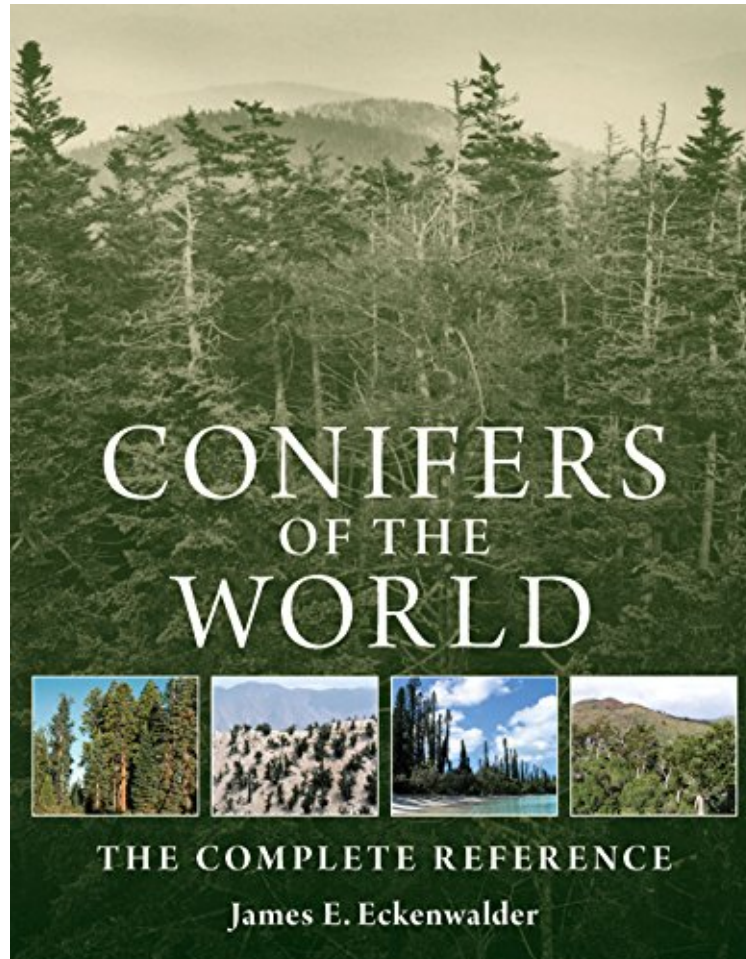


Conifers of the World: The Complete Reference

James E. Eckenwalder

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James E. Eckenwalder : Conifers of the World: The Complete Reference before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Conifers of the World: The Complete Reference:

19 of 20 people found the following review helpful. A fine piece of work By Dr.ScienceFirst: This is a fine piece piece of work. Eckenwalder is known and respected throughout North America for his work with conifers, and has devoted many years to the preparation of this, his masterwork. The introductory chapters, accounting for 68 of 720 pages, are especially useful. The chapters on classification and names make a great primer on taxonomy for lay audiences. The chapters on habitat and morphology present excellent information, some of it never before published, on conifer botany. The bulk of the book, pages 69 to 631, addresses the families, genera, and species of conifers. Pretty good keys are presented to enable easy identification. The treatment of each taxon consists of two or three paragraphs that contain information needed for an accurate identification, followed by tidbits on subjects like ecology, uses, etc., but there is no systematic approach to this information. There are a few drawings and maps, many black-and-white

photographs, and one section with 65 glossy color photos. Second: Eckenwalder is a "lumper" and this volume identifies only 550 conifer species. This is 65 species less than in Farjon's superb *A Handbook of the World's Conifers*, and 100 species less than are recognized by many taxonomists. Each species is treated in rather cursory manner, and in general there is little information on any subject other than identification by means of morphology, which means that you don't actually learn much about these species - their ecology, their importance to people, and their evolution and history remain pretty much a secret. For this reason I am annoyed by the book's subtitle, "A Complete Reference;" it's just not true. I would have subtitled it "a guide to identification" because, for most taxa, that is this volume's primary strength. The black-and-white photographs are mostly not well reproduced and add little to the substance of the book, which is regrettable but probably helped to maintain a reasonable price. In conclusion, I highly recommend this book for any one who is mainly interested in being able to identify the sort of trees that you are most likely to find in an arboretum. If you are interested in a general introduction to conifers as a group, you would be more happy with another Timber Press publication, *A Natural History of Conifers*. If you want to know more about the history, ecology, and uses of conifers, you are better off buying books about the species or region that interests you, or else coming up with the dough to purchase *A Handbook of the World's Conifers*, which addresses these subjects.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. beautiful reference guide
By Sylvan Leef
This is at least the fourth time I've been asked to comment on this book and its shipping. (Might check your system.) This is a truly beautiful book. The sellers did an excellent job on shipping. As I live in an area swamped by foresters, I suspect many will be jealous that I have this work. The sellers did a great job. The book is truly beautiful on its own. It is a terrific reference book and I'm quite pleased to own it as a reference. My thanks to the sellers.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great reference book.
By carol A. Strasser
This was a gift for my Son-in-law. He is into all kinds of gardening. He found this book very helpful in answering some questions he had about conifers.

Researched for more than three decades, this definitive work provides up-to-date descriptions of all the true conifers of the world, including 545 species of trees and shrubs. Written for accessibility to both horticultural and botanical audiences, it is the first comprehensive update of conifer taxonomy in nearly a century. Noted conifer taxonomist James E. Eckenwalder also discusses the relationships among the groups, practical usages, champion trees, fossil occurrences, and biology. New identification guides for the families and genera are based whenever possible on foliage features and thus should be easier to use than traditional conifer keys, which focus on seasonal, and often microscopic, cone characters. Eckenwalder shares the reasoning behind his taxonomic decisions, many of which are unique to this book, reflecting a comprehensive reevaluation of conifer classification. He also outlines the features sought in cultivars of each genus, particular cultivation concerns, and conifers recommended for cultivation under various conditions and to achieve different effects. Some 3,000 cultivars have been available in recent times, more than five times the total number of conifer species. Several hundred original illustrations include drawings of the seed cones for all genera as well as for representative species. Maps of the natural distribution of each genus allow for easy comparison of ranges. Handsome black-and-white photographs of species in their natural habitats and attractive color photos further enrich the volume. More than 100 images reproduce foliage of many genera as an aid in identification. With its unprecedented attention to detail and extensive bibliography, this major work is an essential reference for botanists, naturalists, and horticulturists.

A major new reference work that will become indispensable to botanists, naturalists, horticulturists, nursery staff, botanical garden staff, and plant collectors. Choice
James E. Eckenwalder has not just written a book about trees, he has created an epic work that may well stand for years as the definitive source for information about conifers.
North County Times