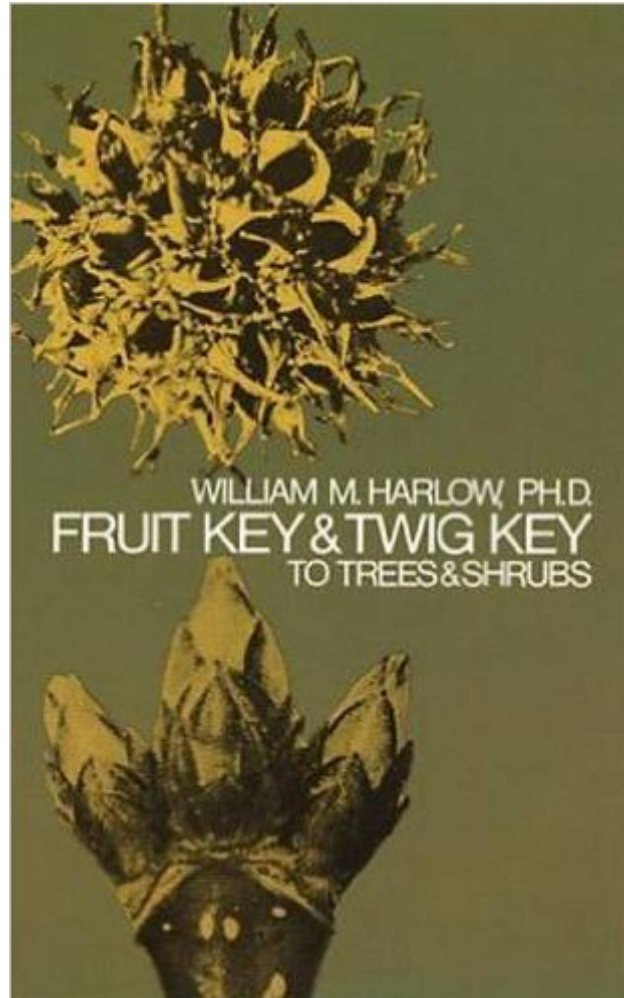


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# Fruit Key And Twig Key To Trees And Shrubs



## Synopsis

These handy, accurate, and easily used keys to fruit and twig identification are the only guides of their sort with photographs — over 350 of them, of nearly every twig and fruit described — making them especially valuable to the novice. The fruit key (dealing with both deciduous trees and evergreens) begins with a concise introduction, explaining simply and lucidly the process of seeding, and identifying the various organs involved: the cones and flowers, and their component parts and variations. Next the various types of fruits are described — drupe, berry, pome, legume, follicle, capsule, achene, samara, nut — and fruiting habits, followed by a synoptic summary of fruit types. The introduction to the twig key tells in plain language the process of growth and its relation to twig morphology through leaf scars, branch scars, buds, etc. For the benefit of the unwary, poison-ivy, poison-oak and poison-sumac are immediately and fully described. Identification in both books is easy. There is a pair of alternative descriptions of each aspect of the specimens. Your choice of the fitting one leads you automatically to the next proper pair. At the end of the chain is the name of your specimen and, as a double check, a photograph. More than 120 different fruits and 160 different twigs are distinguished. This exceptional work, widely used in university courses in botany, biology, forestry, etc., is a valuable tool and instructor to the naturalist, woodsman, or farmer, and to anyone who has wondered about the name of a leafless tree in winter or been intrigued by an interestingly shaped fruit or seed.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is the guide I take with me on walks in the winter, when all the leaves are off the oak forest

here in southeast Massachusetts. To be honest, I haven't had an opportunity to use the fruit key yet. Remember that this book is ONLY a key, so you'll need other references to learn. I've found the key to be technical and a bit unwieldy on occasion, but by the same token, it's opened a new level of detail to my observation: an eye loupe comes along for those walks...

This is one of three winter keys I use on a regular basis. I work at a botanical garden, but I'm not a botanist. I find it easy to use, and fairly comprehensive. It uses B/W photos instead of line drawings- this works great for the fruit key. For the twig key, drawings might have been clearer, but it's still very good. The first ten pages cover the terminology used in the rest of the book, and are a good introduction. There are separate indexes for common & scientific name. One caveat: each of the two sections (twig, fruit) has its own set of indexes. When I brought this key to work, both my boss (a horticulturalist) and our head gardener (a botanist) produced well-worn copies of their own, so it's been around awhile, and has stood the test of time.

The book is an unaltered reprint combining "Fruit Key to Northeastern Trees" (1946) and "Twig Key to the Deciduous Woody Plants of Eastern North America" (1954). The reprint title led me to assume that the geographic range it would cover would be a little bit more expansive. I live in the western United States so as a field guide the book isn't something I would use very often. That being said there is a good level of detail with magnified photographs for each specimen.

If you're a tyro or a practiced botanist, you'll find this helpful. Take it along on walks in the dreary seasons, and you'll find a wealth of fascinating things to keep you busy bushwatching. Easy to use and not too technical.

If all you have is an acorn, a seed pod, or a thorny winter branch, this is the book to have to identify it. It uses both common and scientific names. It is very useful for winter identification of the trees at Ives Road Fen Preserve in Southeast Michigan.

I was a forestry technician for the U.S.F.S. I carried one in my satchel when I marked timber there was also a copy in the office. Any body who is looking for a book for tree and shrub ID with no leaves this book is it. My forestry professor also used this book in class.

Unfortunately this book's description does not mention that this is a book for the north-eastern US.

This is not the book i was looking for. However, it is still a great book, and many of the trees in my area are in it. I'm going to have to try to find another book though, this one doesn't suit the need. I'm still giving this book 4 stars, because it is a great book, it is the item description that deserves a lower rating.

No one - no one, should study dendrology in the northeastern US without this book. It is an absolutely essential reference. At the price for this book, even new, you can't afford to be without it. Buy a copy now...you need it!

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