



## Flora Technical Note No. 2: Useful references on Tasmania's flora

The *Flora Technical Note Series* provides information for Forest Practices Officers on flora management in production forests. These technical notes are advisory guidelines and should be read in conjunction with the requirements of the Tasmanian *Forest Practices Code*.

Technical notes can be accessed on the Forest Practices Authority's website: [www.fpa.tas.gov.au](http://www.fpa.tas.gov.au)

### 1. Introduction

This technical note briefly describes books and other information sources useful for identifying flora and understanding the vegetation of Tasmania. It is not comprehensive – important new publications continue to appear from time to time. Many reports and scientific papers on specific subjects (e.g. threatened species, pests and diseases, survey reports) are not included. Details of these can be obtained from libraries or from the FPA Biodiversity Program.

The publisher and date of publication are given for each text. Most of the recent texts are available in bookshops, and a rough indication of price is given. Details are provided for publications mainly available from more unusual outlets. Price and availability are both subject to change. Some of the books listed in this technical note are out of print, but you may come across copies in libraries (or garage sales, secondhand bookstores etc, if you are lucky).

**This technical note is subject to periodic updates as new publications become available. Check the FPA website for the most recent version.**

Some other sources of information on forest flora cited in this technical note include web sites and CD-ROM interactive guides.

Readers should be aware that there have been changes to the scientific names of many Tasmanian species over the last few years (as a result of taxonomic research, and the discovery and description of several new species). A web edition of the [Census of Tasmania's Vascular Plants](#), which gives the currently accepted names for outdated synonyms, has been produced by the Tasmanian Herbarium.

*Titles marked with an \* are probably the most useful for identifying flora.*

*Titles marked with a + are good reference texts.*

### 2. General texts

#### + *Vegetation of Tasmania*

JB Reid, RS Hill, MJ Brown, MJ Hovenden (editors) (1999)

This is a book for those who want to delve deeper into Tasmania's vegetation. It deals with the biological, environmental and human interactions affecting the Tasmanian flora. With contributions from most of Tasmania's leading botanists, this is probably the most comprehensive book covering a range of issues in the one volume. (*About \$60*)

#### + *From Forest to Fjaeldmark: Descriptions of Tasmania's Vegetation*

S Harris and A Kitchener (editors) (2005)

A comprehensive guide to Tasmania's forest and non-forest vegetation communities, with 158 mapping units being described. It is an important reference for people involved in conservation

planning in the state. This book is a companion to the statewide vegetation map, which is available from DPIPWE. (*Book is about \$60*)

[From Forest to Fjaeldmark](#) can also be downloaded from DPIPWE's website as a series of 12 PDF files, with the different files covering different vegetation types.

### 3. Trees

#### \* ***Eucaflip***

R Wiltshire and B Potts (Published by the School of Plant Science, University of Tasmania and CRC for Forestry, 2007)

This fold-out, laminated field guide has excellent, life-sized colour photographs of leaves, buds and fruit of the eucalypt species of Tasmania. For each species there is also a small distribution map and outline of the tree shape, to further assist with identification. This is a very user-friendly and field-friendly guide to eucalypt identification. (*Currently available directly from FPA for \$10*)

#### \* ***Treeflip***

R Wiltshire and G Jordan (Published by the School of Plant Science, University of Tasmania and CRC for Forestry, 2009)

Another fold-out, laminated field guide following the same format as *Eucaflip* (see above). There are excellent, life-sized colour photographs of leaves and other parts useful for identification for 31 tree species native to Tasmania. For each species there is also a small distribution map. An excellent companion to *Eucaflip* for identification of trees in Tasmania. (*Currently available directly from FPA for \$10*)

#### \* ***Native Trees of Tasmania***

JB Kirkpatrick and S Backhouse (latest edition 2004)

This is a very useful field identification book, which covers almost all Tasmanian trees and shrubs with the potential to exceed 8 m in height. There is a clear line drawing for each species, as well as a short description and a distribution map. A user-friendly key is based on illustrations rather than technical terms. (*About \$25*)

#### \* ***Forest Trees of Tasmania***

Forest Resources (latest edition 1995)

An excellent small format identification book with field keys for eucalypts and pines. For each species, there is a page of text, a distribution map, and several photographs showing key features. The information has been adapted from *Forest Trees of Australia* published by *Thomas Nelson Australia and CSIRO, Melbourne 1984*.

(*Previously available free from Forest Resources (now Gunns Pty Ltd) but no longer in print*)

#### + ***Field Guide to Eucalypts: Volume 1***

MIH Brooker and DA Kleinig (Second edition 1999)

An authoritative book that covers all of the eucalypt species occurring naturally in SE Australia. Companion volumes cover other parts of Australia. The descriptions and distribution maps are good – these are complemented by colour photos showing the form and diagnostic characteristics of each species. Keys are well set out, and are arranged separately for each state. As well as indigenous Tasmanian eucalypts, the book will help with identification of many species that are grown as ornamentals in the state. (*About \$50*)

#### + ***Eucalypts of Victoria and Tasmania***

Dean Nicolle (2006)

Another authoritative book that has good descriptions, maps and photographs of species (and subspecies) native to Victoria and Tasmania. Information on cultivation is also provided – not

surprising given that the author is currently growing most of Australia's eucalypt species on his property in South Australia. (About \$50)

**+ *Tasforests Volume 8: Tasmanian Eucalypts***

Published by Forestry Tasmania (with several authors) (1996)

This volume describes the ecology and habitat of all Tasmanian eucalypts (including charts of flowering times and detailed distribution maps). It has articles on the evolution of eucalypts and a history of their taxonomy. A key to Tasmanian species includes unusual forms.

[Out of print but available from Forestry Tasmania web site ([www.forestrytas.com.au](http://www.forestrytas.com.au)) and FPA website ([www.fpa.tas.gov.au](http://www.fpa.tas.gov.au)).]

## 4. Overstorey and understorey species

**+ *The Student's Flora of Tasmania Parts 1, 2, 3, 4A, 4B***

WM Curtis (all volumes) and DI Morris (volumes 1 and 4B) (1963 to 1994)

These five volumes allow the identification of most Tasmanian species (with the exception of recently described species). The series is primarily for specialists: identification is based on keys and familiarity with botanical terminology is assumed. Detailed descriptions are given for each species but there are few diagrams. Some volumes are pretty long in the tooth (1963 in the case of Volume 2) and consequently do not take account of recent taxonomic changes and discoveries of new species. Volume 4B (monocotyledons other than orchids) is the most recent (1994), and covers a group of plants that are often ignored by field guides. (Varies from \$12 to \$30 each)

**\* *A Guide to Flowers and Plants of Tasmania***

Launceston Field Naturalist Club (latest edition 2000)

Over 200 species (mainly understorey plants) are illustrated with a colour photograph and a brief text description. This is a useful general guide to many of our common (and some less common) plants. The book concentrates on more colourful or charismatic species. The photos are clear, and the book is conveniently divided into sections based on vegetation type.

(About \$30, but sometimes on special for a lot less!)

***Tasmania's Natural Flora***

J Whiting, J Roberts and others (2004)

The book contains colour photos and descriptions of about 700 of Tasmania's native vascular species – a labour of love by the authors. Information is also given on habitat/distribution, and cultivation of many of the species. Some naturalised weed species are also covered. (About \$80)

***Field Guide to Tasmania's Wildflowers***

R Minchin (2005)

This book has colour photos and short descriptions of about 300 of Tasmania's native vascular species. Its arrangement is a bit difficult to follow, but there is useful information on habitat and the derivation of names of the genera. (About \$30)

**+ *Common Grasses of Tasmania: An Agriculturalists' Guide***

P Lane, D Morris, G Shannon (1999)

Identifying grasses is tricky, even for the experts! This book, although primarily aimed at agricultural areas, is very useful for identifying some of the more common species found in Tasmania. Identification is based on habitat association (book is divided into sections), and uses photographs and line drawings of key floral parts. (About \$15)

***Flowering Times of Tasmanian Orchids: A Practical Guide for Field Botanists***

M Wapstra, N Roberts, H and A Wapstra (self published, 2008)

This guide to orchid flowering times includes all Tasmanian orchid species known at the time of publication and indicates both peak and potential flowering times in a visual representation of the seasons, broken down into the early and late halves of each month of the year. Notes such as effect of disturbance on flowering are included for many species to assist with species survey timing. (*Free electronic publication, downloadable from the websites of FPA, ECOTas and DPIPW*)

#### + **The Orchids of Tasmania**

D Jones, H Wapstra, P Tonelli, S. Harris (1999)

This book is aimed at the specialist and the enthusiast. It covers all known Tasmanian orchid species at the time of publication. The text is authoritative, and includes notes on habitat, distribution, habitats and flowering period. The photographs are superb – they will often allow species to be identified without reference to the keys (which are reasonably user-friendly). The book is expensive but is the most comprehensive book to deal with Tasmanian members of this fascinating and taxonomically-challenging plant family. (*About \$80; sometimes on sale for less*)

#### \* **The Ferns of Tasmania: Their Ecology and Distribution**

M Garrett (1995)

A handy aid to the identification of Tasmanian ferns and fern allies. There are good colour photographs, detailed distribution maps and habitat notes for each species. User-friendly keys, aid identification to genus and species level. Background information is given on fern anatomy and ecology, and there are notes on culture of many of the species. Printed on strong glossy paper with sewn binding, making it fairly resistant to Tasmanian field conditions.

(*About \$50 – can be obtained from Michael Garrett, PO Box 49, Bicheno 7215*)

#### + **Ferns and Allied Plants of Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia**

BD Duncan and G Isaac (1986)

This is an authoritative book, which would complement *The Ferns of Tasmania* (for people with a deeper interest in this plant group). It has detailed keys and descriptions of fern species found in SE Australia, and includes line drawings and photographs of distinctive features used to separate species and genera. It contains maps showing distributions of species in Victoria, but Tasmanian distributions are not shown. (*About \$50 – may be out of print*)

## 5. Non-vascular flora

### ***Mosses and Liverworts of Rainforest in Tasmania and South-eastern Australia***

SJ Jarman and BA Fuhrer (1995)

This book gives an introduction to mosses and liverworts, followed by more specific notes on species. The book has an abundance of beautiful colour photographs illustrating each species. The book is useful for both the specialist and non-specialist and provides a good starting point for those interested in the often forgotten non-vascular flora of Tasmania. (*About \$30*)

### ***Rainforest Fungi of Tasmania and South-eastern Australia***

B Fuhrer and R Robinson (1992)

An excellent text for those interested in putting a name to some of the diverse range of fungi present in the forests. This text is richly illustrated with many excellent colour photographs accompanying a brief description of the species. (*About \$30*)

***Lichens of Rainforest in Tasmania and South-eastern Australia***

G Kantvilas and SJ Jarman (1999)

An identification aid covering the main species of lichens found in Tasmanian rainforest. Introductory chapters describe the biology of these intriguing life forms, and the bulk of the book comprises colour photos and simple descriptions. A key and glossary are included. (*About \$30*)

**6. Specialised habitats and habitat-based field guides****\* *Plant Identikit Series: Woodland Wildflowers; Wildflowers of Mt Wellington; Alpine Wildflowers; Orchids; Rainforest Plants***

Society for Growing Australian Plants (now Australian Plant Society – Tasmania)

These are excellent pocket-sized field guides for the non-specialist. They have good (but small) colour drawings and paintings by several artists, and simple species descriptions (including distinguishing features, distribution, flowering times) and places where the species can be found. (*Between \$6 and \$12*)

**\* *Alpine Tasmania: An Illustrated Guide to the Flora and Vegetation***

JB Kirkpatrick (1999)

A book providing a concise summary of the natural history of the Tasmanian alpine environment. With over 400 high quality line drawings, many superb colour photographs by Peter Dombrovskis and a brief description of each species, this book offers a greater depth to identifying Tasmanian plants and is a useful companion to other plant identification books. (*About \$30*)

***The Disappearing Heath Revisited***

JB Kirkpatrick and S Harris (1999)

A good guide for those interested in conservation and ecology of this specialised habitat. It has many line drawings and simple descriptions of many heathland species. (*About \$25*)

***Aquatic and Wetland Plants: A Field Guide for Non-tropical Australia***

N Romanowski (1998)

This book describes more than 340 plants using colour photographs and drawings. There are no keys or complex botanical terminology. Useful to identify many common aquatic and wetland plants to at least genus level – many of the illustrated species do occur in Tasmania.

(*Available from DNR Victoria bookshop; about \$30 plus postage*)

***Waterplants in Australia – A Field Guide***

GR Sainty and SWL Jacobs (latest edition 2003)

A small format book covering 150 common wetland plants from around Australia – both native and introduced. The plants are organised according to growth form, and species can be easily identified by flicking through the relevant pages. All species are illustrated with a colour photo. Dot points summarise relevant biological and ecological information. (*About \$60*)

***Aquatic Plants of Tasmania***

JMR. Hughes and GL Davis (1989)

A specifically Tasmanian reference for aquatic and semi-aquatic flora, with excellent line drawings. Species are described and maps show their distribution within the state. (*Out of print*)

**Tasmanian Streambank Plants**

R Glazik and M Askey-Doran; illustrations by Lauren Black (2004)

A beautifully-illustrated guide to 32 of the main species found in streamside environments – the guide focuses on plants found in drier lowland regions of the state. There are good notes on distribution, habitat, diagnostic features and propagation. Information is also given on the derivation of the scientific name of each species. (*Free from Rivercare Section, DPIPW, Hobart*).

**Tasmanian Weed Handbook**

B Hyde-Wyatt and D Morris (1975)

A comprehensive guide to the main broad-leaved weeds of crops and pastures in Tasmania – many of these species extend to bushland in more settled parts of the state. The notes are detailed and the line drawings (by Dennis Morris) are superb. (*Out of print*).

**Grassland Plants of South-eastern Australia**

N and J Marriott (1998)

A book illustrating many Tasmanian grassland and grassy woodland species, with simple descriptions of species (including a comparison of similar species), their distributions and habitats. Each description is accompanied by a half page colour photograph making identification without keys for most species quite easy. Useful half-size format book. (*About \$30*)

**The Nature of the Midlands**

Louise Gilfedder, Jamie Kirkpatrick, Hans and Annie Wapstra (2003)

This book is useful to landowners, community groups, botanists and foresters working in the Tasmanian Midlands area. It contains a thorough documentation of the native vegetation found in the Midlands and superb photographs are categorised by flower or plant colour, allowing for quick visual identification. There are also sections on the natural history of the region and informative reminiscences, observations and home-spun wisdom provided by residents with a long connection with Tasmania's agricultural heartland. (*About \$35*).

**One Hundred Islands: The Flora of the Outer Furneaux**

Stephen Harris, Alex Buchanan, Amy Connolly; illustrations by Anna Stewart (2002)

Systematic description, analysis and celebration of the flora and vegetation of the islands of the Outer Furneaux Group. All species known to occur on the islands are described and illustrated or photographed, and the vegetation of each island is described and mapped. (*About \$60*).

**King Island Flora – a Field Guide**

King Island Natural Resource Management Group (2002)

A very useful field guide to the 300 or so of the 500 native vascular species that have been recorded from King Island. The book is well-structured and bound, and a handy size. The notes on each species and its habitat, are accompanied by high quality colour photos. There is also a comprehensive description of the main vegetation types found on the island. The guide would also be useful for similar environments of the Tasmanian 'mainland' (e.g. lowland areas of the north-west). A complementary book deals with fauna. (*About \$22 – available from KI Natural Resource Management Group, Currie 7256*).

## 7. Census and lists of names

**The Little Book of Common Names for Tasmanian Plants**

H Wapstra, A Wapstra, M Wapstra and L Gilfedder (2005)

A useful book that lists common names for all Tasmanian native and naturalised plants, alphabetically and by family. (*About \$12*).

## **A Census of the Vascular Plants of Tasmania**

AM Buchanan (2009)

The [Census of Tasmania's Vascular Plants](#) file is updated regularly (current is 2009). It lists all species (scientific names only, arranged by family) that are native or naturalised in Tasmania. The lists include revised names, allowing people to follow the twists and turns of the taxonomic trail – a particularly useful feature given the frequency of taxonomic upheavals in some groups (e.g. the orchids) and the fact that many of our texts and field guides are approaching a venerable age. (*Hard copies of the census may be available for about \$22 from the Tasmanian Herbarium – located at the University of Tasmania*).

## **8. Websites and computer-based resources**

### **Google search engine**

([www.google.com](http://www.google.com))

This is a popular search engine, and an excellent resource for tracking down information and images of flora and fauna species. Just type the name of the species (scientific names are best) and the search will come up with results in the categories of 'web', 'images', 'groups' and 'directory'. The 'web' category (automatically displayed) is the broadest, usually hitting on many entries, all of which will contain your search words.

Example: For information on *Tetratheca gunnii*, type the species name and click on search (or just hit 'enter'). The search only takes a few seconds, and the results are listed 10 at a time. The first entry to come up is the 'Recovery Plan', accessible as a PDF file from the DPIW website.

If you're just after a picture (e.g. to check on an identification), click on the 'images' tab – thumbnails of all found images appear (in this case one photo of *T. gunnii*). You can enlarge these images by clicking on the corresponding thumbnail.

### **Department of Plant Science, University of Tasmania ([www.utas.edu.au/docs/plant\\_science](http://www.utas.edu.au/docs/plant_science))**

This site has two particularly useful tools for identifying Tasmania's plant species (and vegetation types). They are:

- Photographs and information used for field courses that the department runs in Mount Field National Park and south-western Tasmania. Click on [Field Botany](#), and use the navigator on left of page to view high quality photographs of the plant species and communities of these areas.
- An Online Key to Tasmania's dicotyledonous species ([www.utas.edu.au/dicotkey](http://www.utas.edu.au/dicotkey)). A key to identification of dicots (i.e. many of the flowering plants), which uses photographs and text to allow users to classify their unknown specimens into families, genera and finally species. This key has been developed by Greg Jordan. It will allow users to identify Tasmania's 1200 native species of dicotyledonous plants (and many naturalised species). Descriptions of families, genera and species are also accompanied by useful photos. Species lists can be accessed separately.

### **Tasmanian Herbarium (part of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery)**

([www.tmag.tas.gov.au](http://www.tmag.tas.gov.au))

The Tasmanian Herbarium site can be accessed (with great difficulty) through the site of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. It contains a brief history of the Herbarium and some interesting links, and a PDF file of the [Census of Tasmania's Vascular Plants](#) (updated regularly – see notes on previous page). The Herbarium is located in the grounds of the University of Tasmania, and is worth a visit to see its collection or to discuss identification of individual plants with its friendly staff.

**Forest Practices Authority website**

([www.fpa.tas.gov.au](http://www.fpa.tas.gov.au))

The Forest Practices Authority website includes a substantial amount of information on how the forest practices system works in Tasmania. It includes a *Plant Species Identification Kit* (click on the Advisory tab and scan down the menu). This kit has two components:

- A [Key to Tasmanian Eucalypts](#) (pdf file);
- A [Picture Gallery](#) of Tasmanian plants.

The picture gallery includes images of pressed or fresh plants, line drawings and photos. It focuses on more common tree and understorey species found in Tasmanian forests and woodlands (and many less common species as well) but also includes many non-forest species. The species are arranged by common names and scientific names, and can provide a quick check on your identifications, and in broad groups (e.g. eucalypts; wattles; ferns; wet forest species).

The FPA site also contains other botanical information, including manuals and information sheets that have keys to identification of forest communities and other vegetation types.

**Dept of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE)**

([www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au))

This website contains general information on Tasmania's vegetation and other natural attributes: go to [Natural Environment](#). Continue this route to [Vegetation of Tasmania](#) for access to several sites dealing with different vegetation types (e.g. rainforest, native grassland) and species (e.g. alpine species). The DPIPWE site allows downloading of [From Forest to Fjaeldmark](#) – the book which describes Tasmania's forest and non-forest vegetation communities. The DPIPWE site also links to the DPIPWE [Threatened Species](#) site, which gives detailed information on Tasmania's threatened plants, including listing statements (see below).

**DPIPWE Threatened Species Section**

([www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au))

An online version of information on threatened species of plants and animals has been compiled by the Threatened Species Section of DPIPWE. Notesheets (about 3 to 4 pages) have been prepared for most of the 480 or so plant species listed under Tasmania's *Threatened Species Protection Act*. The [Threatened Species Notesheets and Listing Information](#) cover taxonomy, description, habitat, distribution and management issues, and most have a good colour photo and distribution map. Information is also provided on collecting guidelines and requirements.

**\*Upclose Macro Images**

([www.upclose.net.au](http://www.upclose.net.au))

This Tasmanian webpage, established and maintained by orchid enthusiasts and photographers Peter Fehre, Malcolm Wells and Peter Tonelli, has excellent close-up images of many of Tasmania's orchid species. Navigate to the sub-galleries, which are arranged by genus name, to find images of a species you may be trying to identify. This visual guide may be particularly useful when used in conjunction with other orchid resources, including the Flowering Times Guide (see information on this electronic resource under Section 4).

## 9. Interactive CDs

### ***AusGrass: Grasses of Australia***

D Sharp and BK Simon (2002)

*AusGrass* is the largest and most comprehensive identification guide to an Australian plant group. Using either interactive or dichotomous keys, *AusGrass* enables quick and accurate identification of any of the 1323 species of grass, native or naturalised, growing wild in Australia. It can be used with living plants or dry specimens, even when they are not in flower or fruit. It has a comprehensive fact sheets for each species, including a botanical description, notes on distribution and taxonomy, and images (line drawings, scanned specimens, photos).

(\$99 from CSIRO Publishing – details on internet)

### ***EUCLID: Eucalypts of South-eastern Australia***

MIH Brooker, JR Connors and AV Slee (2003)

The new edition of EUCLID is an interactive identification and information system for all southern Australian eucalypts (690 taxa). The latest Lucid Player ensures an easy-to-use and simple means of naming a eucalypt plant (or specimen) using whatever information is available. A total of 113 characters, covering the morphology – habit, bark, leaves, flowers, fruits, buds, seeds and juveniles – and some geographic and ecological information – can be used to identify specimens. HTML fact sheets for each species include a botanical description, geographic and ecological information, and notes on relationships and distinguishing features.

(\$110 from CSIRO Publishing – details on internet)

### ***WATTLE: Acacias of Australia***

B Maslin (2001)

WATTLE is a complete information package, with a powerful key and descriptions and illustrations of the nearly 1200 species, subspecies and variants of acacia in Australia. Every species has a botanical description, a distribution map and diagnostic drawings, one of which is annotated to highlight the most critical features of the plant.

(\$110 from CSIRO Publishing – details on internet)

## Publication details

This technical note has been prepared by Fred Duncan, Diana Duncan, Mark Wapstra and Nina Roberts. It should be cited as:

Forest Practices Authority 2009, 'Useful References on Tasmania's Flora', *Flora Technical Note No. 2*, Forest Practices Authority, Hobart.

## Contact details

**Forest Practices Authority:** 30 Patrick Street, Hobart, Tasmania 7000.

Phone: (03) 6233 7966

Fax: (03) 6233 7954; Email: [info@fpa.tas.gov.au](mailto:info@fpa.tas.gov.au); Website: [www.fpa.tas.gov.au](http://www.fpa.tas.gov.au)

**Document Summary Information**

<b>Document name</b>	<b>Flora Technical Note No.2: Useful references on Tasmania's flora</b>
<b>Version</b>	4.1
<b>Trim record</b>	2009/35531
<b>Owner</b>	Biodiversity Section Staff
<b>Author(s)</b>	Biodiversity Section Staff
<b>Release date</b>	November 2009
<b>Release Approved by</b>	Biodiversity Manager
<b>Release status</b>	For publication on the FPA webpage and other external distribution

**Version Control**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Summary of changes</b>
4	Nov 2009	Biodiversity Section Staff	Document previously available on FPA website revised. Previous revisions pre-date document control.
4.1	Feb 2011	Nina Roberts	Note: the wording of this document is identical to that approved by the FPA Biodiversity Manager in early 2010, except for the addition of document control information.