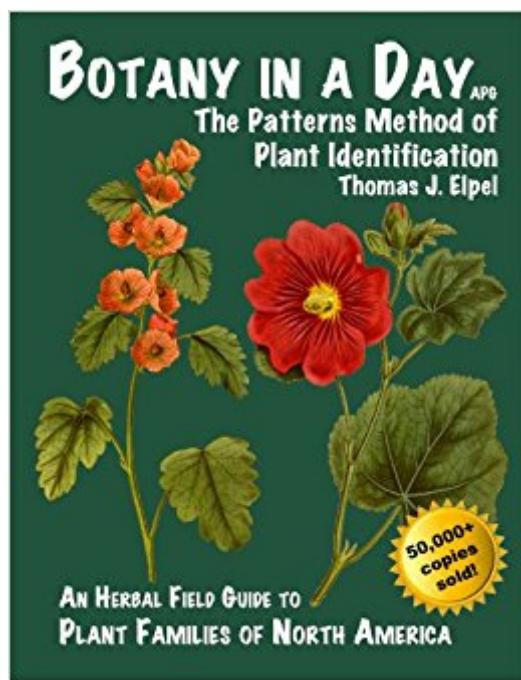


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# Botany In A Day: The Patterns Method Of Plant Identification



## **Synopsis**

Botany in a Day, now available in a full-color version, is the plant identification method that thousands have used and learned. Looking for a faster, easier, and engaging way to identify plants? Related plants have similar characteristics, and they often have similar uses. Rather than learning new plants one-at-a-time, it is possible to learn them by the hundreds, based on plant family patterns. Each family of related plants has unique patterns for identification. Learn to recognize these patterns, and discover them again and again in the plants you encounter. It is possible to instantly recognize a plant never before seen, and in many cases, to know its edible or medicinal properties on the spot—even before you have identified it down to the species! Botany in a Day is changing the way people learn about plants. A one-day tutorial introduces eight of the world's most common plant families, applicable to more than 45,000 species of plants. Master these eight patterns and have the skills to recognize an astonishing number of plants on any continent. Add to your repertoire by keying out entirely unknown plants and learning additional family patterns. Botany in a Day is principally written for North America, but used and adored by readers all over the world. It is used as a textbook in numerous universities, high schools, and herbal schools. This book is widely used in nature programs and promoted in national parks. Botany in a Day is your passport connection to nature and discovering the amazing world of plants!

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Botany in a Day presents a simplified way of identifying plants through learning the patterns in over 100 plant families." --Ecology Action Newsletter. Willits, California. February 2003.(Review of the

fourth edition.)

A Positive Relationship with Nature Our culture teaches us that we are separate from nature. We spend most of our lives in houses surrounded by manicured lawns, living in towns or cities where recreational activities are based on human-centered sports. Nature is something we go to a park to see, or we watch a show about it on TV. Those of us in the field of environmental education try to preach a different message, telling people that "all life is interconnected" and that "we really are part of nature". But in the next breath we tell them to stay on the trails and to practice "no-trace" camping. We tell them to look at nature and photograph it, but not to touch it. We tell them our modern way of life is destroying nature, and that we need to stop mucking up the planet. In other words, we tell them we are part of nature--the bad part! Here at HOPS Press, LLC we advocate a positive interactive relationship with the natural world. We want people to get involved in nature, to be a part of the process on many levels: Through Participating in Nature: Thomas J. Elpel's Field Guide to Primitive Living Skills and the Art of Nothing Wilderness Survival Video Series, you can experience an intimate connection with nature as you rediscover the skills our ancestors used to survive for tens of thousands of years. Instead of merely camping in the wilderness or passing through it, you will become part of the process as you learn about nature by using it to meet your needs for shelter, fire, water and food. Learn to set aside the trappings of modern culture and step directly into nature with little or nothing, to experience nature on its own terms. With Tom's book Botany in a Day: The Patterns Method of Plant Identification, you can connect with the wonderful diversity of plants and flowers all around you in a way that you may have never imagined. Instead of seeing the green world as little more than pretty wallpaper, you will learn to know the individual plants, wildflowers and weeds as if they have been your life-long friends. Our book Shanleya's Quest: A Botany Adventure for Kids Ages 9-99 utilizes the same patterns method of identifying plants as Botany in a Day, but in a metaphorical story form where children of all ages can join young Shanleya on her journey to learn the plant traditions of her people. In Living Homes: Integrated Design & Construction you will learn how to make your home part of nature, as well as how to make nature part of your home. Learn the secrets to building low-cost, high-efficiency homes with stone masonry, log-building and strawbale construction methods. With this book and Tom's Slipform Stone Masonry DVD/VHS Video you will be able to build your quality, earth-friendly Dream home on a budget, even while the "experts" say it isn't cost effective. Finally, in Direct Pointing to Real Wealth: Thomas J. Elpel's Field Guide to Money, you will learn to see the economy as an ecosystem where money is a token that represents calories of energy. Learn the basic rules of this

economic ecosystem and you will be empowered to use your resources to more effectively achieve your desired quality of life, while making the world a better place to be. You will be able help convert an economy that harms planetary biodiversity into an economy that helps restore it. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I really like the concept of this book and had a good time studying it, though some parts were a bit technical. Some reviewers commented on how "in a day" is misleading. I spent about a week studying it and still haven't come close to mastering it, but the core concept is simple. My biggest aha was in learning to identify members of the aster family. The thing I was mostly disappointed about was that the main means for identification came down to a plant's flowers. That may be the best way to identify members of a given family, but what do you do when they aren't in bloom? There were some comments about leaves, fruit, etc, but it mostly talked about flowers. I think the author did a good job. It wasn't everything I ever dreamed it could be, but it was very helpful.

I'm still studying this book. I'm using it as a textbook for herb mentor (dot) com. It has a good explanation of plant parts and terms at the beginning of the book. It is set up in families of plants, has clear drawings, and is easy to understand. It is not completely comprehensive, so a supplement guide may be needed to identify all known plants.

Excellent reference for identifying or learning to ID plants. It won't get you down to species, but knowing the family of a plant is a good start, and in some cases, Botany in a Day can help determine genus. As mentioned in the book, it is best used in conjunction with another field guide. Parts of the introduction are redundant for anyone with a basic understanding of taxonomy and evolutionary biology, but would be very useful for anyone without a background in those areas. WARNING: Botany in a Day does frequently comment on edibility and medicinal uses of plants, but you should not rely on it exclusively for such matters. Be sure to consult a book or other expert on wild edibles before attempting to use or eat wild plants. Otherwise a great book that I highly recommend.

Thinking of taking some classes and this book was recommended highly.

I am a teacher and I really appreciate it when excellent teaching strategies are used. T Elpel carefully organizes the information and also uses mnemonic devices (jingles, comparisons, etc.).

The title is misleading - it is not THAT simplified. But if you read the intro pages you will understand the plant parts better which makes it easier to remember the differences between the families. It is always better if you comprehend why there are differences rather than just trying to memorize them.

I haven't used the text to much yet as I am study online through a herbal class and haven't had a use for it yet. Wish there were more color illustrations for easier identification.

This is a great book for those wanting to be able to key out plants for identification.

This has to be my 10th or 11th copy of Botany in a Day... I either wear it out, or give em away to others and get me some new copies. I am going to try and make this short and sweet. Are you interested in learning about wild edible plants and their uses? Do you already have a start? Do you already have a well established knowledge? Then this id guide is for you. By simply learning the differences (and likeness) between monocots and dicots, and viewing simple parts of a plants flower and other key characteristics you can quickly build quite the repertoire of wild edible/medicinal/useful plants. Once you learn a few, you find you have learned a lot. It really helps to have someone with a working knowledge to start you out, but it's possible to do it on your own. I spent about two months with Tom and his family years ago, and am very grateful to have met and learned from them... every one of them, but mostly Tom. I highly suggest you check his other stuff out.

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