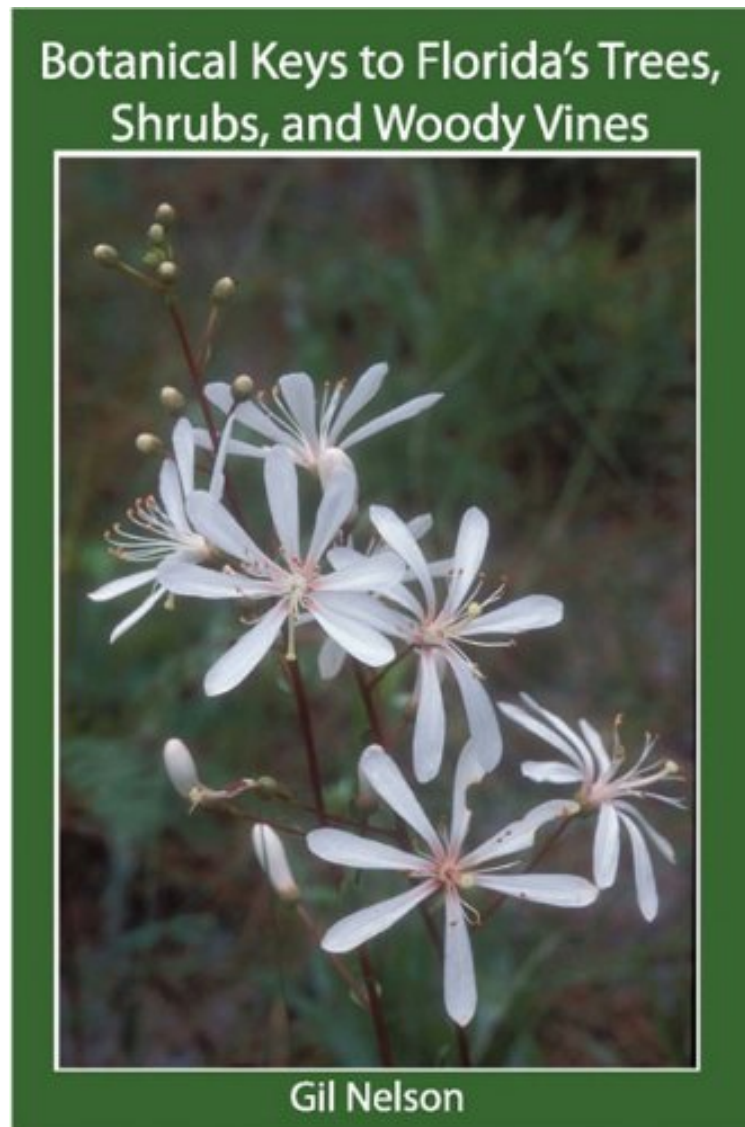


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Botanical Keys to Florida's Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines

Gil Nelson

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Gil Nelson : Botanical Keys to Florida's Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Botanical Keys to Florida's Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. It really works! By Dr. John W. Rippon I am quite familiar with the Botany reference books of Gil Nelson. His "The Trees of Florida", "The Ferns of Florida" and "The Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida" are constant companions of my numerous treks into the woods, scrubs and swamps of this my

adopted state. I cannot emphasize enough how much I value these texts for their clear, concise understandable identifications of the botanical specimen encountered in my field forays. The only problem is that if I carry all these reference works I am so weighted down I cannot travel very far at all. Thus I restrict my backpack references to the very minimum. One essential in the future will be "Botanical Keys to Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines". I have for the past several months field tested this work. I tried it out on three categories of specimens: one group was familiar and known -just to check how Nelson's key would approach the answer, the second category were some shrubs and vines I was not sure of and lastly some vines and shrubs I was unfamiliar with. Nelson's keys worked easily in all situations - even on some new to me exotics. As something of an erstwhile taxonomist and having composed a few keys myself I am pleased by his deft use of easily appreciated differences in forming the keys. These keys will be useful to the amateur as well as the professional as they rely on observable differences not on microscopic work and are thus real field guides. I am also pleased with his choice of the more modern classifications such as Adoxaceae for Sambucus and Viburnum as separate from the Caprifoliaceae and several other such knotty taxonomic problems. I strongly recommend this text along with his other books as aids in identifying Florida's abundance of plant life.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. botanical keys
By Jean Vand
This book is excellent for identifying the trees, shrubs, and woody vines found in my area, central Florida. At the front of the book are illustrations of leaf shapes and positioning. The rest of the book lists by process of elimination the way to identify what you are trying to discover. In some of the reviews of this book complaints were expressed that there weren't pictures. I believe pictures would have made the book too cumbersome. If you are in doubt about what you think is the correct identification you can always 'google' images for it.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The always effective yes/no decision tree format is well done ...
By Bob S.
The always effective yes/no decision tree format is well done. You absolutely must end up with the ID of the plant in question. A basic and necessary tool for the naturalist.

This handy handbook, which can be used independently or as a companion to *The Trees of Florida* and *The Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida*, makes it possible to easily identify all of Florida's native and naturalized woody plants. The text is formatted as a traditional botanical key, offering a series of either/or decisions leading to the precise identification of a plant in hand. Designed primarily for field use and targeted to both amateurs and professionals, the keys are clear, concise, non-technical, and rely on conspicuous and easily seen features with emphasis on characteristics that are observable year-round. An important addition to any plant lover's field gear.

About the Author Gil Nelson has spent many years exploring, teaching, and writing about Florida's natural communities. He is the author of twelve books and regularly writes for a number of magazines on natural history, ecology, outdoor recreation, and native plant gardening. He is a research associate in botany at the Robert K. Godfrey Herbarium at Florida State University, where he coordinated the Deep South Plant Specimen Imaging project, a National Science Foundation initiative, and is a Beadle Fellow at Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy, where he assists in curating, databasing, and imaging the botanical collection. He lives in the community of Beachton, Georgia, with his wife Brenda. " In addition to *Trees of Florida*, he has written *Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida* and *Ferns of Florida* for Pineapple Press.