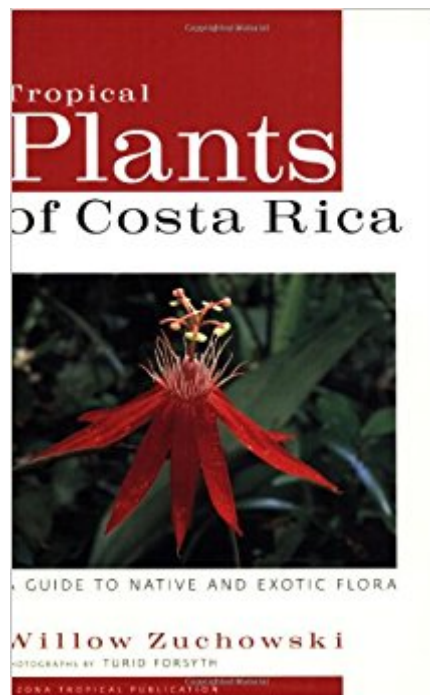




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# Tropical Plants Of Costa Rica: A Guide To Native And Exotic Flora (Zona Tropical Publications)



## Synopsis

Ranging from miniature epiphytic orchids to towering trees, and from mangrove forests lining coastal waterways to high-elevation cloud forests, Costa Rica's rich and varied flora dazzles visitors and botanists alike. *Tropical Plants of Costa Rica*, the first popular treatment to include plants from all regions of the country, is an indispensable guide to native and exotic species found in the neotropics. This book is beautifully illustrated with more than 540 full-color photographs taken in the field, each depicting an entire plant or a closer view of flowers, fruits, or seeds. Instructive pen-and-ink drawings of botanical details also accompany many of the accounts. The text clearly explains each plant's identifying characteristics and reveals fascinating facts about its natural history, chemical properties, economic importance, and medicinal and other uses. Sidebar features throughout the book highlight conservation, ethnobotany, and ecology; their topics include unusual applications for plants, distinct attributes of certain plant families, and plants of particular microhabitats. *Tropical Plants of Costa Rica* is a wonderful resource for naturalists, students, and researchers, as well as both experienced and first-time visitors to Costa Rica and the American tropics.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"One is hard-pressed to come up with a list of plants that should have been included but are missing from this fabulous survey of tropical beauty. *Tropical Plants of Costa Rica* is a real gem. This is a well-constructed, nicely formatted, high-quality book. Essential. All levels." —G. C. Stevens, *Choice*,

October 2007" This attractive book provides a means for visitors to Costa Rica to learn about and recognize 430 of the more prominent plants of the country and to learn about them in a wonderfully exciting way. A 'must' for any ecotourist, and a refresher course about the biology of tropical plants for anyone. I wish such a book had existed when I first visited Costa Rica forty years ago!" •Peter H. Raven, Director, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis

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I don't like the non-taxonomic arrangement, nor the somewhat scattered and irregular use of identifying features. The arrangement by habitat is helpful at times, but not as the only order for a book, in my opinion. A book this size and weight should be able to identify more plants, too, especially for such a diverse region. Unfortunately, I have not found a better book yet, as I do not have the time, space, or money to use a multi-volume taxonomic key. However, Even a pseudo-key or arrangements into families with a more systematic approach to identifying features would be helpful. Then, I wouldn't mind an additional section on breakdown into habitats. I'm very particular and hard to please when it comes to plant books, but some examples of ones that have been useful to me are Newcomb's guide (good example of useful pseudo key), the Pojar book for the PNW (my favorite for beginners and advanced users alike with key and photographs), and most of the Peterson's guides are OK, too. I wish there was a guide like one of those for central America.

Beautifully organized, well-written, and nicely photographed. Congratulations to Ms. Zuchowski on her fine book on Costa Rica's remarkable plants. We looked at several field guides to the plants and chose this one as the best. Clear and easy to use. Fun to explore.

I love this guide. I found it very useful when going to Costa Rica. The author was very thorough, adding interesting and sometimes humorous stories to the different plants listed. I thought the organization of the book was brilliant, unlike the animal book by the same publisher. I was able to see many of the plants in the guide, so she was smart about the ones she included. It really is a nice book, I have read it cover to cover many times.

Terrific book, with great photos, technical specs, and tidbits on habitat and use. We got before our trip to Caribbean and Pacific coasts, and used the book daily for trees, ornamentals, and wild plants. Book is heavy but well worth it! Not for the casual or gardens-only observer.

Better than expected, and I expected a lot!!! I have three of the books in this series, and every one of them has been great. There are wonderful pictures and descriptions, I love the wealth of information. Whenever anyone comes to visit, they always want to know what particular plants are - so this helps us to identify what's on our property as well as what's around the area. Don't hesitate to buy this or any other book in the Costa Rica series!

Bought this book to identify plants in Panama (because I couldn't find a Panama book). It helped me identify many plants on my trip, and I also recognized plants I'd seen in Guatemala. So it's not JUST for Costa Rica.

If you are going to visit Costa Rica, this is a bit heavy. But if you are planning on living there, this book is a necessity.

I bought the plant, bird and mammal books for my hubby before we took our Costa Rican vacation last month and he did a trip to the Oso jungle and now we can match the pictures he took with names when we find them in the book also it helped us identify lots of tropical plants and so on. Well worth the price, best books out there. Love them and will use them over and over.

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