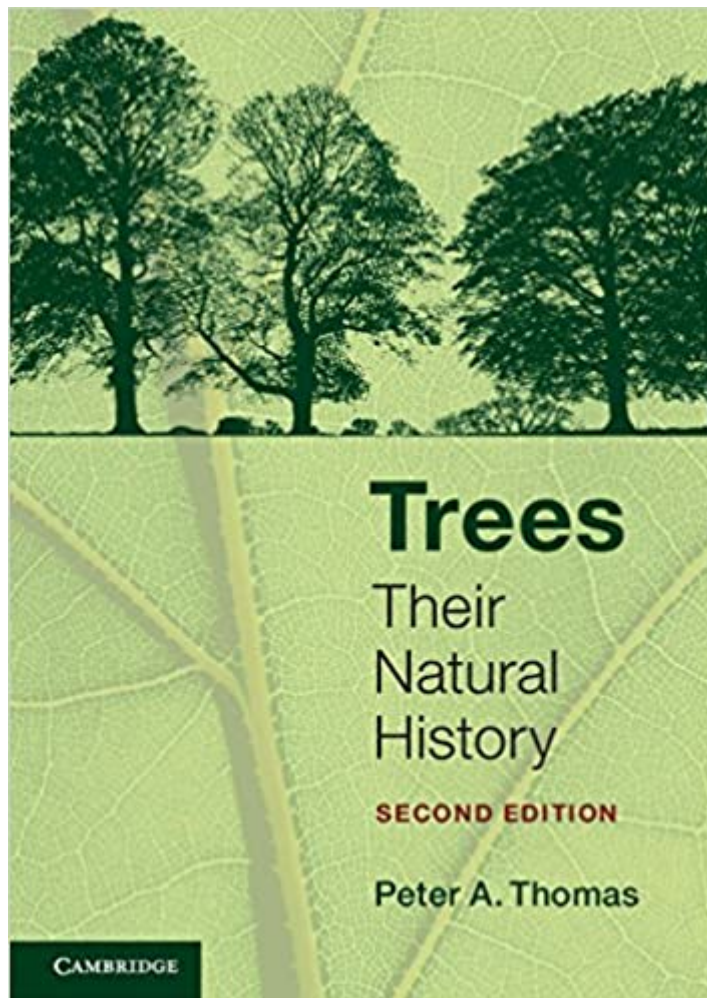


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Trees: Their Natural History



Synopsis

Trees are familiar components of many landscapes and have been vital in determining the ecology of our planet as well as the development of human cultures and communities. Yet how much do we really understand about how they work? This updated and revised edition provides a comprehensive introduction to all aspects of tree biology and ecology and presents the state-of-the-art discoveries in this area. The wonders and mysteries of trees are explored throughout the book and questions such as why leaves turn spectacular colours in the autumn, how water reaches the top of the tallest trees, or why the study of genetics has caused so many name changes in trees are all brilliantly answered. Written with a non-technical approach, this book will be a valuable source of reference for students and those with a less formal interest in this fascinating group of plants.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A thoughtful and informative book, logically and sequentially set out for anyone with an interest in trees, whether professional or amateur. The reader is guided through the physiological and structural characteristics of the tree, through its life cycle from seed to antiquity and finally to an exploration of the relationship between trees and people ... The text, which flows smoothly with academic rigour, succeeds in communicating in an easy to read fashion for both academic and the non academic. Each section is punctuated with interesting and useful snippets of information from around the world related to the specific chapter topic being discussed and each chapter can be read

independently of the others ... The text is well supported by excellent photographs and beautifully drawn graphics which enhance and clarify the subject matter throughout the book ... It is the combination of all the factors above which makes this book so useful and interesting." Keith Sacre, Barcham Trees

"Peter Thomas has a rare ability to communicate complex biological processes in an accessible way while offering the understanding of a real expert. The first edition succeeded in the author's aim of bringing together a dispersed literature on the natural history of trees. This edition expands and updates the first edition with recent insights into the biology and ecology of trees and their relationship to us. I consider it to be essential reading for all those with a personal or professional interest in trees and am convinced every reader will gain a deeper understanding of trees from the rich content of this book. Even if you are only casually interested in trees, buy it, read it and be inspired by their fascinating life!" Andrew Hirons, Myerscough College

"I look forward to second editions because there is always a synthesis of more literature and stronger evidence for hypotheses. This volume lives up to the highest of expectations. It is an encyclopedia of neat ideas on the features of trees. The photography and choice of figures and tables add to the clarity of explanations. The concluding chapter resonates with current societal issues of environmentalism, nature attention deficit, and back-to-nature movements ... This contribution speaks to a wide readership of gardeners, students, and naturalists. Dr Thomas is a master communicator in melding the topic of trees into the everyday experiences of the reader. He personalizes science ... This book is like visiting a botanical garden with a guide who has travelled the world; and Dr Thomas has travelled the world to find these gems of information. After reading this book the reader will no longer look at a tree with indifference." Ross W. Wein, Professor Emeritus, University of Alberta

"The best general work on trees to come out in 2014 ... this book offers fascinating insights and can be usefully read by anyone, student, amateur or professional, and should be on any reading list." Pro Arb Magazine

"The much-abused term "well-written" sits very comfortably here; you could buy this book for an aspiring young biologist, a relative with an interest in trees, your local landscape architect or planner ... If you bought the first edition, this one is newer and better. If you didn't buy it last time, think again." Alan Crowden, Bulletin, British Ecological Society

The second edition of this book provides a comprehensive introduction to all aspects of tree biology and ecology and presents the recent discoveries in this area. It offers unique insight into our understanding of trees, the role of genetic and hydraulic engineering as well as the effects of climate change.

This is a well-written book that does an excellent job of explaining how individual trees function. It also provides some illumination on how forests function as a unit. Since the author references the science of trees by using numerous citations from research performed around the world, this is a good read for the professional who needs to refresh their enchantment with trees. Perhaps most importantly, it is written in a format and language that will interest, fascinate, and entertain the non-professional seeking greater insight into the marvel of trees.

A nicely written book about tree physiology, approachable to nearly every level.

Very informative, well written and entertaining.

Good material to start with. Some of the chapters have whole sections of material which appear to come from other sources and have not been married together properly by the author. Chapter ten, the last chapter, good have been left out and the book would have been better for it. Examples are biased to European trees which will be good for readers in that Hemisphere. All in all a good primer for a steady reader.

Great book

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