

Stipa Native Grasses Association Recommended Reading List

Some of these books are available from The Book Connection, Dubbo NSW. An order form can be downloaded from this web site. The remainder are available from Amazon.com.

Updated 3 December 2007

Aboriginal Environmental Impacts

By James Kohen
UNSW Press, 1997,
ISBN 0-86840-301-6

Available www.amazon.com

James Kohen presents the arguments and evidence to show that Aboriginal influence on many ecosystems of this continent have been profound and that the understanding of the Australian environment must take this into account.

An Agricultural Testament

By Sir Albert Howard
Oxford University Press, London

Available www.amazon.com

The first treatise on organic agriculture.

The Botany of Desire: A Plant Eye's View of the World

By Michael Pollan

Available www.amazon.com

This well written and fascinating book tracks the history of four plants, the apple, the potatoe, marijuana and the tulip. Pollan shows how intelligent these plants have been at making themselves indispensable to mankind, hence ensuring their survival and proliferation. Factual, philosophical and questioning, this is a must read.

The Diversity of Life

By Edward O Wilson, Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1992

Available www.amazon.com

Edward O Wilson is considered one of the most informed biodiversity experts. This book calls for a spirit of stewardship over the world's biological wealth. He makes a plea for specific actions that will enhance rather than diminish not just the diversity but the quality of life on earth. Wilson maintains that the era of confrontation between forces for the preservation of nature and those of economic development is over; he convincingly drives home the point that both aims can and must be integrated.

The Ecology of Commerce, A Declaration of Sustainability

By Paul Hawken,
Harper Business, 1993, ISBN 0-88730-704-3

Available www.amazon.com

Farmers of Forty Centuries, Permanent Agriculture in China, Korea and Japan

By F H King, Rodale Press, Pennsylvania, 1911
ISBN 0-87857-054-3

Available www.amazon.com

One of the richest sources of information about peasant agriculture.

Farming without Farming

By Darryl Cluff

Available from Book Connection. See order form.

Cluffy's journey through native grass identification to the land management system of Pasture Cropping.

Flying Fox and Drifting Sand

By Francis Ratcliffe, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1948

Available www.amazon.com

Francis Ratcliffe is an English economic biologist, or applied ecologist. This book is a record of his impressions while engaged in his first major investigations. His impressions of the state of the Australian landscape shortly after WW2 are insightful and prophetic.

The Future Eaters

By Tim Flannery

Available from Book Connection. See order form.

Tim Flannery's first warning that we must change the way we farm or risk losing our place on the planet.

Gardeners of Eden, Rediscovering Our Importance To Nature,

by Dan Dagget,

2005, Thatcher Charitable Trust, ISBN 0-9666229-1-X

Available www.amazon.com

"A book about healing humankind's alienation from nature. One of those rare books that cause you to see the world through new eyes. Once you see humankind as an integral part of nature, your eyes snap open and all of a sudden the many ways we have or could live in mutual benefit with nature come into view. Part of an emergent new paradigm for a sustainable future. Will become a classic". Dennis Church EcolQ.com.

Grasses of NSW

By Wheeler, Jacobs & Whalley

Identification for botanists, well worth having.

Grasses of South Australia

By Jessop, Dashorst & James

Available from Book Connection. See order form.

Well worth having in your identification library. While focusing on South Australian Grasses, many are found in the Eastern states of Australia.

Grassland Flora, A Field Guide for Southern Tablelands and ACT

By David Eddy, David Mallinson, Reiner Rehwinkle & Sarah Sharp

Available from Wildlife Research and Monitoring Environment and Recreation.

www.tams.act.gov.au/live/environment/native_plants_and_animals/native_flora/grassland_flora

This is an excellent identification book with David Eddy's wonderful photos. The plants described are found over wide areas of NSW and Victoria.

Grassland Plants of SE Australia

By Neil and Jane Marriott

<http://www.netstore.com.au/books/18764/1876473002.shtml>

Another excellent identification book, applicable to much of NSW.

Holistic Management

By Allan Savory and Jodi Butterfield

Island Press, Washington DC,

Available from Book Connection. See order form.

Holistic Management Handbook

By Butterfield, Bingham & Savory

Available from Book Connection. See order form.

A very practical guide to carrying out holistic grazing management.

Microcosmos, Four Billion Years of Evolution from our Microbial Ancestors

By Lynn Margulis and Dorion Sagan

Summit Books, New York, 1986

ISBN 0-671-44169-8

Available www.amazon.com

The saga of the life of the planet.

A Million Wild Acres

By Eric Rolls

Available from Book Connection. See order form.

History of the settlement of NSW by Europeans from Sydney to the Pilliga. A fascinating natural history and sociological account of this time and place.

Native Grasses: An I.D. Handbook

By Meredith Mitchell

Available from Book Connection. See order form.

An excellent identification manual of grasses growing in the Rutherglen area of Victoria.

Proceedings of Stipa's 5th National Native Grasses Conference 2007

Available from Book Connection. See order form.

The Omnivores Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals

By Michael Pollan,

Available from Book Connection. See order form.

This book has changed the way I eat, shop, cook, farm and think. Descriptions of industrial agriculture, including industrial organic agriculture, have made me more determined to grow as much of our food as possible. The ruination of cattle in feedlots, where their rumens are destroyed by a diet of corn has confirmed my decision to market native grass fed beef. I no longer buy food which is imported, as the calories of fossil fuel used to get it to my plate far exceeds the calories in the food. Full of facts you would rather not know, eg 19% of meals in America are eaten in the car.

The One Straw Revolution

By Masanobu Fukuoka,

Other India Press, 1992

ISBN 81-85569-31-2

Available www.amazon.com

The book which has most influenced Colin Seis. "This book, an all time classic, is a clarion call to all of us to abandon modern agriculture and its destructive methods and poisons, and to return to our far richer heritage of working closely and simply with the land".

Plants of Western NSW

By GM Cunningham, John Leigh, Peter Milthorpe, WE Mulham

Available from Book Connection. See order form.

The definitive identification book for all plants of Western NSW. This is the book I always end up referring to. It has excellent photos, with descriptions of the plant, its habitat, distribution and further notes giving details of palatability, invasiveness etc.

A Sand County ALMANAC, and sketches here and there.

By Aldo Leopold, Oxford University Press, New York.

Available www.amazon.com

A notable book of discovery; a book whose beginning is fashioned for naturalists and artists, and whose conclusion is a far-seeing challenge to statesmen and philosophers.

Secrets of the Soil: New Solutions for Restoring our Planet

By Peter Tomkins and Peter Bird

Available from Book Connection. See order form.

Soil biology with a biodynamic slant.

A Short History of Progress

By Ronald Wright, Carroll and Graf publishers, New York, 2005

ISBN 0-7867-1547-2

Available www.amazon.com

A concise history of the world since Neanderthal times, elegantly written conceived, and stunningly clear in its warnings to us now.

Soil Biology in Agriculture, Proceedings of a workshop on current research into soil biology in agriculture. Tamworth, 11-12 August 2004.

Sponsored by NSW DPI and GRDC.

Publisher: NSW DPI

ISBN 0734716109

Available for free download at www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/soil-biology/soil-biology-proceedings-sp.htm

Australia's leading soil scientists attended this workshop and contributed to this manual. While being at the forefront of scientific knowledge, it also gives the basic information on soil biology.

People, Sheep and Nature Conservation: The Tasmanian Experience

By Jamie Kirkpatrick and Kerry Bridle

ISBN 9780643093720

Paperback AU\$39.95

Available at www.publish.csiro.au

Jamie Kirkpatrick presented at the 2005 National Native Grasses Conference, and Kerry Bridle was a 2007 presenter.