

CHOICE

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Biology - Botany

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The following review appeared in the May 2009 issue of CHOICE:

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Turner, Matt Warnock. **Remarkable plants of Texas: uncommon accounts of our common natives.** Texas, 2009. 336p
bibl index afp (Corrie Herring Hooks series, 62) ISBN 9780292718517, \$29.95

Readers who are not plant lovers now will be by the time they read just a few of the entries in this remarkable book. Turner, a naturalist, teacher, and writer, has done a masterful job of telling "their" story, i.e., the plants of Texas and their connections with people and places, history and culture, and beauty and practicality. The scope is broad, the scholarship impressive. The intended audience is identified in the introduction: "for lovers of the land." At a time when many see their natural heritage slipping away, the *Remarkable Plants of Texas* is a noble declaration of what is timeless and most valuable in securing a healthy future--a love for the land. Descriptions of a perfume made from huisache and Indian baskets made from squawbush, as well as discussions of the French connection with pralines and pecans and how Texas grapes saved the French wine industry in France, are but a few of the interesting accounts told here. The plants selected have a broad distribution, making this work of great value to land lovers anywhere. The excellent illustrations, extensive glossary, index, and bibliography round out the text to bring readers a true literary treasure. **Summing Up: Highly recommended.** All levels/libraries. -- T. Johnson, Prescott Valley Public Library