

A Photographic Guide to the Vegetation of the South Texas Sandsheet

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The South Texas Sandsheet is an area of critical importance to wildlife and native plants. Inherent botanical diversity in combination with a high degree of endemism makes plant identification in this region a challenge. Because of the value of the region to hunters, outdoor recreationists, and ranchers, there is interest in identification of the flora in the region. However, no specific resources have been published that encompass the common plants found in the region within a single volume. Available plant identification books focus on adjacent regions or deal only with specific groups of plants such as forbs, grasses, or woody plants.

In 2017, we began work on a photographic guide to the common vegetation of the South Texas Sand Sheet. One goal was to include plants from all vegetation types in one volume for ease of use. Another goal was to provide descriptions of the plants in laymen's terms and high-quality photographs organized by visual appearance to ensure the book was easily useable by those without formal training in botany. Over 200 plant species are included.

The resulting book is to be published by Texas A&M University Press titled *A Photographic Guide to the Vegetation of the South Texas Sandsheet*. It is scheduled to be available for purchase in late 2019. This book should help landowners, managers, and recreational users of the Sand Sheet to identify the common plants easily and accurately and aid in the appreciation and conservation of this unique region.

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