

## BOTANY

**A Field Guide to Alpine Flowers of the Pacific Northwest**

By Phillipa Hudson. 2011. Harbour Publishing, P.O. Box 219, Madeira Park, British Columbia, V0N 2H0 Canada. Eight fold 9-inch by 36-inch plasticized sheet. \$7.95 CAD.

**A Field Guide to Gemstones of the Pacific Northwest**

By Rick Hudson. 2011. Harbour Publishing, P.O. Box 219, Madeira Park, British Columbia, V0N 2H0 Canada. Eight fold 9-inch by 36-inch plasticized sheet. \$7.95 CAD.

The flower guide covers 110 flowers and two fruits of the principle, cute alpine wildflowers. Each photo is 1.75 by 1.5 inches [4.5 by 4 cm] and shows an individual flower or flowerhead. They are arranged by colour from purple through pink, red, yellow, orange to white and green. As the photos are close up there is little portrayal of the leaves or the general shape of the plant. The text has the English and scientific names, the plant's height and its distribution. While this guide does not have the depth of information of a full book on flowers, it is very compact and light. It will be most useful for visitors and backpackers.

The gemstone guide covers about two dozen rocks with most pictures about 5 to 10 cm square. These often show the uncut and cut stones ready to be mounted. The text is necessarily brief and gives only limited information on where to find these gems. Given the limited space I was surprised to read some of the information [origin of the word crystal or ecosystem restoration] as it seemed superfluous. I would have preferred more details on how to find these interesting items. Again this mini guide will be valuable to hikers.

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