

Since the publication of the first edition of *Grasses: Panicum to Danthonia* in 1973, twenty additional taxa of grasses have been discovered in Illinois and numerous nomenclatural changes have occurred. This second edition properly categorizes the new grasses, updates the nomenclature of previously known grasses, contains additional distributional records, and features illustrations by Paul W. Nelson for all of the additions.

Because the nature of grass structures is generally so different from that of other flowering plants, a special terminology is applied to them. In his introduction, Robert H. Mohlenbrock cites these terms, with descriptions that make the identification of unknown specimens possible. Mohlenbrock's division of the grass family into subfamilies and tribes is a major departure from the sequence usually found in most floristic works in North America.

Synonyms that have been applied to species in the northeastern United States are given under each species. A description based primarily on Illinois material covers the more important features of the species. The common names—Panic Grass, Billion Dollar Grass or Japanese Millet, Thread Love Grass, and Goose Grass—are the ones used locally in the state. The habitat designation and dot maps showing county distribution of each grass are provided only for grasses in Illinois, but the overall range for each species is also given.

Robert H. Mohlenbrock taught botany at Southern Illinois University Carbondale for thirty-four years. Since 1984 he has been a monthly columnist for *Natural History* magazine. Among his more than seventy books are *Macmillan's Field Guide to North American Wildflowers*, *Field Guide to the U.S. National Forests*, and *Where Have All the Wildflowers Gone?*

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