



Bedouin Ethnobotany: Plant Concepts and Uses in a Desert Pastoral World (Hardback)

By James Mandaville

University of Arizona Press, United States, 2011. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English. Brand New Book. A Bedouin asking a fellow tribesman about grazing conditions in other parts of the country says first simply, Fih hayah? or Is there life? A desert Arab's knowledge of the sparse vegetation is tied directly to his life and livelihood. Bedouin Ethnobotany offers the first detailed study of plant uses among the Najdi Arabic-speaking tribal peoples of eastern Saudi Arabia. It also makes a major contribution to the larger project of ethnobotany by describing aspects of a nomadic peoples conceptual relationships with the plants of their homeland. The modern theoretical basis for studies of the folk classification and nomenclature of plants was developed from accounts of peoples who were small-scale agriculturists and, to a lesser extent, hunter-gatherers. This book fills a major gap by extending such study into the world of the nomadic pastoralist and exploring the extent to which these patterns are valid for another major subsistence type. James P. Mandaville, an Arabic speaker who lived in Saudi Arabia for many years, focuses first on the role of plants in Bedouin life, explaining their uses for livestock forage, firewood, medicinals, food, and...



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