

## PREFACE

This manual was written as a guide for Corps field inspectors involved in our Federal Regulatory Functions mission. It was prepared in non-technical language so that individuals lacking a biological background can use it as a field reference for the identification of wetland plants and their role in the ecological community. Although compiled primarily for use within the North Atlantic Division, many of these species are also found in other areas of the country, and the manual should be of benefit to other Corps of Engineers Divisions and Districts.

Because of the great diversity of aquatic flora, and a desire to provide field personnel with a needed reference work in a timely fashion, all wetland species are not covered. In its supplemented form it greatly expands the species coverage, yet it is still far from inclusive. The manual has been printed in looseleaf form, however, to allow for the incorporation of additional plant descriptions and ecological information. In this regard, readers are encouraged to submit good quality 35 mm slides of species which could be included. Suggestions for improving the manual are welcome and should be addressed to the author, Dr. Robert J. Pierce, Construction-Operations Division of the North Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 90 Church Street, New York, N.Y. 10007.