Arnoldia Reviews


"Man-plant interdependency has existed since his advent. The interest in useful plants has shaped man and his civilization." With such a preface statement Dr. Schery has increased and modernized the coverage of the first edition to encyclopedic proportions and has proven his thesis. Several chapters are small essays on man's relationship with plants as well as his interest in and his use of plants and their parts and products. Material is presented under three primary headings: Products from the Plant Cell Wall, i.e. fibers and wood per se and cellulose compounds; Cell Exudates and Extractions, i.e. latex, tannins, oils and carbohydrates; and Plants and Plant parts used primarily for food and beverages.

Data are given on the origin of many cultivated plants, the varieties that are now cultivated, the areas of cultivation, methods of harvest and the extraction or preparation of the marketed product. Scientific as well as common names are given and the appropriate plant family is indicated. Maps and charts, the latter often flow diagrams of commercial processes, are useful and the illustrations are abundant. A few plates from commercial sources were originally used as colored advertisements and these do not reproduce well and seem out of place in this book. The topics to be covered are so numerous that often lists with abbreviated commentary are used to supplement the data presented on the principal plants of economic importance. A bibliography of additional titles supplements each chapter and references to scientific papers adapted as illustrations or tables accompany the text material permitting further reading or checking.

Plants for Man certainly can be recommended as a text for a course in economic botany and it also should have an appeal as a handy source book for the frequent questions concerning the products of a grocery store. It is indeed the best reference volume with up-to-date coverage now available.

R. A. H.

Although the proceeds from the sale of this book are to be used for a worthy cause — the development of the Botanic Garden at the University of Georgia — I can hardly recommend it. Though meant to be an identification guide to the flora of the Sea Islands of Georgia, the drawings are stylized and hardly diagnostic, and a beginner would have a hard time recognizing many of the plants. In addition, the paper is of poor quality and the drawings show through from one side of the leaves to the other. This book is neither beautiful nor useful — a great pity, since the flora it supposedly depicts is an exciting one.

R. E. W.

This is the first really comprehensive taxonomic coverage of the plant life of the Galápagos. No algae, fungi, bacteria, liverworts or mosses are included; but the flora includes every vascular plant, whether native or introduced, known to occur in these islands. Apparently what does not grow there is as startling as what does. It may not seem too strange that there are no native conifers or members of the rose family but it is odd that native members of the lily or arum families are missing. Perhaps the most puzzling fact is that despite hundreds of miles of tropical shore lines there are no native palms. In fact, there are very few native monocots.

Endemism is very high. About one-third of the species on these islands has originated there. One endemic genus, Scalesia, a relative of our sunflowers, holds a position botanically somewhat equivalent to Darwin's finches in the animal world. The several species scattered about most of the islands are of particular interest to students of evolution. Yet the story of Scalesia helleri is unfortunately all too familiar. Less than 70 years ago, a visitor noted it "all over the Island". Now the species is confined on the same island to a few plants clinging to crevices on vertical cliffs where goats, these islands' worst enemies, cannot get to them.

It will be unfortunate if this volume is confined to use by only the professional botanist. Anyone, just interested in these "Enchanted Islands", or planning a brief visit will find a very informative introduction in the book. It deals with the history, population changes, economy, physiography, geology, climate, soil zones, vegetation zones, and the history of botanical collections there. In addition to a nine page bibliography, an index to every taxonomic name and a glossary of all technical terms used in the book are included. Most of the excellent drawings are the work of Jeanne R. Janish and the senior author. Each genus represented in the archipelago is illustrated by a line drawing showing all parts of the plant, often accompanied by detailed drawings of one or more parts important in differentiating taxa.

These infinitely strange, unforgettable islands have several things in common. They are all volcanic, isolated, and usually very dry. Most of them suffer from the introduction of once tame domestic animals that have now gone wild. There is little lush and beautiful here. Even Charles Darwin after collecting
plants on several of the islands stated, "All the plants have a wretched, weedy appearance, and I did not see one beautiful flower." *Cordia lutea* with its abundant bright yellow flowers, at least one species of wild cotton, and a morning glory or two could be considered exceptions.

The authors are fully justified in stating that "Darwin found much in the Islands to stimulate theoretical bent. We would hope that this account of the plant life of the Islands will, in some similar fashion, be found challenging beyond its basic purpose."

G. H. P.

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The title of this book is misleading. The author hails from Wisconsin, works in Wisconsin, vacations in Wisconsin, and writes about his most favorite topic — Wisconsin. Conservation efforts to save the earth from gasping to death are world wide. Ecological problems are not unique to Wisconsin.

Mr. Schoenfeld tells the reader of some of his outdoor adventures that are strangely akin to something one might read in *Field and Stream*. He writes with vivid nostalgia about his favorite boating lake. There is a decided those-were-the-good old-days tone in all these accounts. Pages 210–273 constitute a report from Sammy Squirrel, whom the reader discovers is the "legislative representative" for the Southern Wisconsin (where else!) Alliance of Fur, Fin, and Feathers (SWAFFF).

Despite the above, Mr. Schoenfeld is genuinely concerned about the world and its protection. *Everybody's Ecology* is not a handbook of formulas, answers, and theories; it is a volume of reminiscences, hopes, and fears. Feelings and attitudes are expressed in a bitter, wry, wistful, amusing, and perturbing way.

H. C. S.
Claytonia megarhiza, *alpine spring beauty*. From Rocky Mountain Flora.


This guide to the flora of the Colorado Front Range is essentially a reprint of the 1967 edition but in a smaller format (so as to be more conveniently used in the field), with the addition of a few colored plates. According to the author, the book is designed to be used by both specialists and amateurs, but I would expect that only quite a serious amateur would find it very effective. The keys, including the one to family, are relatively simple with a minimum of technical terminology and the glossary is well illustrated (although the illustration of a spicate inflorescence in both this and the 1967 edition is drawn with pedicellate flowers). However, since there are no figures of grass inflorescences and their parts, a beginner could not hope to do well in this large group of plants using this guide alone. The line drawings appear to be diagnostic, but there could be more of them, and it is a shame that the plants illustrated by means of colored photographs are duplicated in the drawings.

R. E. W.

In America few plants are better known and loved than the "Hens and Chicks" and various sedums. So it is strange that this is the first book both to be written and published in the United States dealing exclusively with them. Once the gardener discovers that there is more than one kind of sempervivum and more than two or three kinds of sedums the desire to know more about these easily grown, tough plants is great. Helen Payne's book goes a long way in satisfying this wish.

The taxonomic botanist can criticize this book from several standpoints. For example only a few authorities are given for the scientific names that are used. But Mrs. Payne points out that the book is not written for the botanist but for the gardener-grower. The author has been fortunate in being able to rely heavily on Dr. R. T. Clausen of Cornell University for help with sedums. Others are given credit for their assistance.

With an approach that some may find a bit too homely, the author discusses these plants from the standpoints of mythology, supposed curative properties, culture, propagation, hybridization, pests, diseases, and their great variety of uses in gardens. At the end of the book a listing of seven "Public Collections of Sedums and Sempervivums" is given. The Arnold Arboretum collection is the only one listed for New England. This collection is not located in Jamaica Plain however, but is in the small rock garden in a part of the Arboretum known as the Case Estates in the town of Weston. The sizeable collection here of both sempervivums and sedums is mainly the result of extremely generous gifts from Mrs. Payne.

Included in the book are a short bibliography, sources of plant material, 111 color plates, mostly of excellent quality, and descriptions of 187 species, sub-species, varieties and hybrids.

The sempervivum clone 'Elene' is very special to Mrs. Payne. She modestly says, "This sempervivum I named for myself, having neither chick (forgive the pun) nor child to carry on my name . . . This is my one link with posterity." Certainly Mrs. Payne now has a second link — the book, Plant Jewels of the High Country.

G. H. P.

Those who sought *Gardening With Herbs For Flavor and Fragrance* when it was out of print will rejoice in its republication. When Mrs. Fox wrote this book in 1933 the “available literature on growing herbs in America consisted of a slender volume and some government pamphlets”. To correct this sad situation Mrs. Fox engaged in intelligent, intensive research, and three years of propagation, cultivation and harvesting. Her acknowledgments and bibliography indicate the dedication with which she embraced her work.
Her selection of 68 herbs is explained. Botanical and common names are given. A concise description, history, legend, use and culture of the herbs is recorded. Suggestions are made for the planning and planting of a herb garden. Fifty-six interesting recipes are presented, and Mrs. Fox describes the exacting care with which they were tested, and finally tasted at her own dining table. A chapter on herb teas suggests combinations not generally known, and a section is devoted to recipes for potpourri, sachets and toilet preparations.

For the beginner this book is a wonderful point of departure for herb adventures. For those who must garden vicariously it is a book for refreshment and dreaming.

M. P.

As stated in the preface to the first edition, "It was thought that a single publication limited to herbicides and dessicants, but containing detailed physical, chemical and toxicological properties, would be of value to researchers, teachers and extension workers in the field of weed research”; also, “information on herbicidal use is kept to a minimum.” Thus the practical information as to which material to use, at what strength and when and how to apply it to control specific weeds must be garnered from other sources.

This book is a must for one requiring technical information on weed killers; but I would not recommend it even for the advanced amateur gardener.

R. G. W.


This guide is inexpensive and quite comprehensive. All the species included are illustrated by means of line drawings, and these are sensibly arranged according to leaf form. Unfortunately, few flowers and fruits are illustrated, and when they are, the drawings are generally poor. The major problem, however, is that the author has included too many species in the difficult groups, and the illustrations are just not adequate to permit identification. Trying to identify species of elms and lindens, for example, from leaf drawings is difficult to say the least, and yet nine of the former and eight of the latter are included. Even consulting the descriptions provided for each species at the back of the book is of little help in these cases. Besides being confusing, this is a waste of space.

R. E. W.

Neither sufficiently sturdy nor of suitable format, this book is not meant for use in the field. Rather, it is an inexpensive, attractive book to be enjoyed in the home. A total of 101 species is illustrated by means of color photographs which often are both beautiful and diagnostic, although the color is too vibrant in a few cases. The text is interesting and informative. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys wildflowers, even if he never intends to visit the Canyon Country.

R. E. W.
Brunnera macrophylla at the Case Estates. Photo: P. Bruns
Aquilegia at the Case Estates. Photo: P. Bruns

Pulmonaria saccharata at the Case Estates. Photo: P. Bruns
Lilies at the Case Estates. Photo: P. Bruns