Arnoldia Reviews


The dust jacket tells us that Mrs. Ascher began flower arranging as a pastime and has pursued her interest in the subject to become a nationally successful exhibitor, teacher, and judge. She also conducts a TV series and writes articles for various publications.

She shares the wealth of knowledge gained from this profession in a very comprehensive book that covers every possible aspect of arranging. It explains the basics of color and design, simplifies the tiresome mechanics, gives advice on accessories and how to keep the finished design fresh for days. All the traditional styles and materials are discussed, but also accorded full chapters are the subjects of lighting, flower show competition, and the increasingly popular modern styles. These give the book a very complete and up-to-the-minute outlook.

To conclude, there is a chapter of ideas for the flower arranger’s garden. Using her own as a guide, Mrs. Ascher suggests plants to provide a year-round selection of interesting flowers and foliage.

Each chapter is well illustrated with appropriate black and white photographs of the author’s arrangements. There are two groups of color plates that include, as well as numerous other modern concoctions, the design for which she won a “flower arranger of the year” award.

Whether you are interested in competition or require only that the daylilies stay open for a dinner party, this is definitely a book to consider adding to your collection.

Sheila Magullion


Conference reports can be deadly documents to read. The present volume, which is based upon a conference held under FAO sponsorship in 1967, is a very mixed bag. Many of the general papers in the first section of the book contain little that is new and much that is of questionable relevance to the sub-
ject. However, there is much in the balance of the book that is intensely interesting.

The themes that run through the book seem to be: 1) in general any given crop, as cultivated under “primitive” conditions, contains a relatively large sample of the available germ plasm of the species. 2) individual crops, as cultivated in the “developed” countries, are based on a dangerously small sample of the available germ plasm of the species. 3) the replacement of indigenous varieties of crops in the “underdeveloped” nations by cultivars produced in or by the “developed” nations is causing a serious loss of germ plasm. 4) some practical way must be found to preserve the germ plasma of “primitive” forms of crops.

The chapters on the various aspects of plant exploration are perhaps the most exciting reading. The chapters on the individual crops give a good view of contemporary problems.

GORDON P. DEWOLF, JR.


The true value of these two books on houseplants is in inverse proportion to their price.

Rob Herwig has presented his 128 plants in a well-organized and well-photographed booklet. His symbol code for the growing requirements of each plant is most helpful. The plants depicted were chosen by Dr. Donald Wyman, and are, therefore, an interesting group. It should be noted that many of them require greenhouse culture for their survival when not in the house on display.

In spite of a certain archness in presentation, which seems to overcome many people when writing about plants, this is a useful and attractive book at a reasonable price.

Nothing Grows for You?, costing almost four times as much as Mr. Herwig’s volume, is rambling, verbose, and written in a painfully coy and folksy style. Except for some very basic suggestions as to how to treat various ordinary houseplants, the advice to the reader consists mainly of exhortations to throw away any plant that seems ailing or difficult to grow.

The illustrations range from barely recognizable and botanically incorrect line drawings of common houseplants to depictions of pots of ivy, each leaf with a smiling or weeping face. They have no horticultural or aesthetic merit.
Mrs. Tenenbaum mentions in her preface that there are "loads" of books on houseplants. The novice would do well to consult other authority than hers.

CORA L. WARREN


This is a "mini-volume" pocket guide written by a naturalist who has evolved into an ecologist. The wildflowers are arranged in color categories and each is identified by popular and botanical name and depicted by a full page in color from original watercolors. The editorial style is charming, informal, and chatty without being irritating. The pictures accurately represent the plants.

The work is intended as a companion on a nature walk rather than as a scientific tool. Viewed in this light, it agreeably fulfills its purpose.

ELINORE B. TROWBRIDGE


The format consists entirely of large black and white pictures with text. Author's photographs show trees in real city settings: flanking playgrounds, street parking areas and various architectural backgrounds. There are also some excellent photograms, or black and white prints, made directly from leaves, and a very simple key-like introduction. The trees pictured and described are in the northern segment of the United States, east of the Mississippi.

This work apparently is intended for the novice and is suitable for the teens on. It does not "talk down" to the reader, but the editorial style is pleasantly simple and unaffected; there is even humor. Popular plant names are used. The photographs have human interest and feeling. The plant details are good and flowers and fruits are sometimes included.

This volume could well develop further an uninformed curiosity by supplying the tool of basic recognition, building a feeling of mastery, and arousing and sustaining interest. Highly recommended.

ELINORE B. TROWBRIDGE

Lonicera korolkowii 'aurora'

Photo: P. Chvany.