Botanical Latin. 4th ed. William T. Stearn. 2004. Timber Press, Inc., The Haseltine Building, 133 S.W. Second Avenue, Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204-3527. 560 pages, 42 line drawings. \$29.95 paperback. ISBN 0-88192-627-2.

The first time I ever picked up a copy of *Botanical Latin* by William T. Stearn, I was amazed at the wealth of knowledge that it contained, a bit confusing, unless used properly. I was able to look up quickly words used to describe plants and their parts. This book serves as a great reference for deciphering complex botanical descriptions.

Stearn organizes this book into four main sections. Part 1 is an introduction of the history and use of Latin in the botanical world. Parts 2 and 3 are about grammar and syntax, broken into descriptive categories such as Habits, Geographical Names, Colour Terms, Greek Words, Prefixes and Suffixes, Descriptive Terminology, and Chemical Reactions and Tests. This well-developed structure helps the reader to navigate and find meanings of descriptive terminology. Part 4 deals with vocabulary terms and names from the recently mentioned chapters in English-to-Latin and Latin-to-English, helping to decipher old documents and/or complex descriptions.

This is a book that you should have if you are a botanist or seriously involved with botanical taxonomy and morphology. If you just want to know what those weird plant names mean, *Stearn's Dictionary of Plant Names for Gardeners* might be a better choice.

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